



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Spokesman Says No Decision Yet on Panama

OW031001 Tokyo KYODO in English 0857 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Japan has not yet decided on what stand it will take towards the regime of Gen. Manuel Noriega in Panama after the recent dismissal of its civilian president, the Foreign Ministry said Thursday.

"We are of the fundamental view that the recent developments in Panama are an internal affair and therefore we should not interfere," said Yoshifumi Matsuda, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry.

Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle was ousted following a showdown with Noriega.

Matsuda, answering reporters at a weekly press conference, said the Japanese Government would not necessarily follow the United States when taking a decision but would make its own judgment soon.

"We are still in the process of examining the situation," he said.

Washington Metro Decision Draws Criticism

OW040954 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Government spokesman Keizo Obuchi said the Japanese Government very much regrets that a U.S. transport authority refused to give a Kajima Corp.-U.S. joint venture a contract for the construction of a 1,200-meter subway tunnel and station.

The chief cabinet secretary told reporters that the firm ought to be given the contract because it submitted the lowest tender.

He said the U.S. decision barring the venture from the subway project is especially regrettable because it was made while Japan and the United States are trying to reach an agreement on U.S. access to the Japanese construction market which is acceptable to both countries.

Asked whether the U.S. decision will affect Japan's stance at the bilateral talks in Washington started Thursday, Obuchi said Japan's position has not changed and it is trying as much as possible to make its public works market more open to American companies.

U.S. Action Seen as 'Harsh'

OW040715 Tokyo KYODO in English 0635 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—The Japanese Government and construction industry are concerned about a possible backlash from a U.S. decision to refuse to give a Kajima Corp.-U.S. joint venture firm a contract for the construction of a 1,200-meter subway tunnel and station, officials said Friday.

Construction Minister Ihei Ochi expressed his displeasure of the decision made by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) at a post cabinet meeting press conference.

He hinted that Japan is reluctant to concede to a U.S. demand calling for easier access to Japanese public works projects by foreign firms.

The Metro rejected a bid Thursday for subway extension work by a joint venture firm, composed partially of Kajima Corp., a major Japanese contractor, because it may violate a new law banning Japanese firms from projects financed by federal funds.

Last December, the Congress enacted the new law aimed at banning contracts to construction firms of countries which the U.S. Trade Representative's Office (USTR) finds are unfairly discriminating against U.S. firms. It calls for reciprocity in awarding public works contracts.

Meanwhile, Hajime Sako, chairman of the Japan Federation of Construction Contractors Inc. — a powerful group of contractors — expressed frustration over the "cancellation of work" on the 1,200-meter Washington D.C. subway.

The joint venture of Kajima and Peter Kiewit and Sons Corp. had placed the lowest tender, 49.2 million dollars, among a total of six construction firms that participated in the international bidding.

He said, "we hope strongly that (the U.S.) withdraws the decision quickly."

Another senior federation official, who requested anonymity, expressed his apprehension about the possibility that the U.S. May include "a ban on Japanese participation in private-sector work" in its retaliatory measure.

Japanese construction firms are currently engaged in work worth about 3 billion dollars in the U.S. market, of which federally-funded projects amounted to about 70 million dollars.

The major Japanese firms that are annually awarded contracts reap more than 1 trillion yen worth of business each from both domestic and overseas clients.

In view of this, the possible impact from the Metro's decision will be minimal, industry sources said.

Tooru Makino, director of the construction minister's secretariat, said Japan will refrain from deciding how to respond to the harsh U.S. action at present and check details of the U.S. measure.

He stressed that Japan had conveyed its readiness to withdraw a proposal to permit U.S. firms to participate in several government-funded projects unless the U.S. rescinds its retaliatory measures after October, 1988.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita made a market-opening proposal at his summit talks with President Ronald Reagan.

However, U.S. Commerce Secretary William Verity later protested the vagueness of the proposal and demanded that talks resume on improving access for U.S. firms to the Japanese market.

Kishio Nagayama, senior managing director of Kajima Corp., said he strongly regrets the Metro's decision to reject its bid.

He said his company will decide how to respond to the decision after holding talks with Peter Kiewit and Sons Corp.

Takami Eto Leads LDP Farm Mission to U.S.
OW031225 Tokyo KYODO in English 1051 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—A mission of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party left for Washington via New York Thursday to persuade the United States to come to the negotiating table for talks on a new agreement on Japan's imports of beef and oranges.

Takami Eto, a member of the House of Representatives, heads the seven-member delegation of which six are Diet members.

The mission is scheduled to meet trade representative Clayton Yeutter and Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng during a stay of about a week.

An LDP official quoted Eto as saying at a meeting of the LDP panel on liberalization of farm products earlier on Thursday that the mission would do its utmost to persuade the United States to come to the negotiating table.

The U.S. is urging Japan to liberalize imports of beef and oranges and has refused to open talks on a new agreement to replace a four-year accord which expires March 31 unless Japan sets a clear timetable for import decontrols.

The U.S. has warned Japan that it may file a suit in early April with the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), a multilateral global regulatory body, unless Japan scraps its import quotas on beef and oranges.

Yeutter said on Tuesday that the U.S. Government has asked Japan to liberalize its beef and oranges imports within two years.

Under the current bilateral farm accord, Japan has set import quotas on high-quality U.S. beef at 58,400 metric tons, fresh oranges at 126,000 tons and orange juice at 8,500 tons for fiscal 1987, ending March 31.

NEC, Pioneer Halt Exports to South Africa
OW031315 Tokyo KYODO in English 1308 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Several Japanese electric and electronic makers, including NEC Corp. and Pioneer Electronic Corp., have totally suspended their exports to apartheid-practicing South Africa in face of mounting global criticism of Japan, its largest trading partner, electric industry sources said Thursday.

The sources said the step has been taken following "self-restraint" instructions from the government and the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), an influential group representing big businesses.

They said that NEC, which has exported television sets and video tape recorders (VTR) to South Africa "has almost no transactions" with that nation at present.

Likewise, Pioneer Electronic has stopped exporting car stereos and mini-audio components in conformity with the government's instruction, they said.

The sources said that the top Japanese audio equipment producer slashed its exports of these products to South Africa to 850 million yen last year from 7 billion yen in 1980.

Meanwhile, Fujitsu Ltd. and Hitachi Ltd. have asked their West European partners to suspend shipments to South Africa of their computers and printers supplied under European brands, they said.

So far, exports of computers and other sophisticated products to South African army and police have been banned.

Other Japanese firms are expected to follow suit in view of mounting international criticism, notably from the U.S. Congress, the sources added.

Envoy Meets With Pakistanis, Afghan Rebel
OW040451 Tokyo KYODO in English 0420 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Islamabad, March 3 KYODO—Japanese Government emissary Takakazu Kuriyama told Pakistani Government and Afghan resistance leaders Thursday that Japan will continue to support United Nations efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan.

Kuriyama, deputy foreign minister, who flew to Islamabad via Karachi earlier in the day, met successively with President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. He also called on Afghan resistance leader Yunis Khalis at his office in the Pakistan-Afghan border city of Peshawar, Japanese officials said.

Khalis is the leader of a group called the Islamic Unity of Mujaheddin of Afghanistan. It was the first meeting between a high-level Japanese official and a representative of the Afghan guerrillas, the officials said.

Zia and Junejo told Kuriyama that Pakistan is pursuing the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and a solution acceptable to both Pakistan and Afghan guerrillas.

In the meeting with Khalis, Kuriyama praised Afghan guerrillas for their "courage and sacrifice," which he said forced the Soviet Union to abandon its bid to impose a military solution to the Afghan conflict.

Kuriyama, who left Japan Tuesday, is scheduled to visit Iran and Switzerland later.

In Tehran, Kuriyama will meet Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and deliver a letter from Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno calling for an early end to the Iran-Iraq war.

In Geneva, Kuriyama will meet U.N. peace negotiator Diego Cordovez.

He is returning to Tokyo March 10.

LDP Seeks Tax Reform; Diet Remains Stalled
OW040507 Tokyo KYODO in English 0449 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Senior Liberal Democratic Party officers agreed Friday to pursue a sweeping tax reform as the Diet (parliament) remained closed for three days in a row, LDP officials said.

Three LDP officers — Shintaro Abe, secretary general; Ryutaro Hashimoto, acting secretary general; and Kozo Watanabe, chairman of the Diet Affairs Committee — met in the Diet and reached the accord.

The three men agreed to maintain the LDP's position that the government will not reduce taxes unless a stable source of revenues is secured.

Three largest opposition parties agreed not to join tax cut discussions if the ruling party is considering imposing a new indirect tax as the source of financing it, opposition sources said.

Diet business has been stalled since Wednesday as the LDP rejected an opposition call for a 2.94 trillion yen tax reduction. The LDP instead proposed creating an inter-party forum to discuss a tax cut and its revenue source.

Opposition parties say such a tax forum may lead to an imposition of a new indirect tax, opposition sources said.

Labor Leader Plans New Political Party
OW031035 Tokyo KYODO in English 0816 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 3 KYODO—Japan's largest labor organization Rengo has a long-range target of helping form a new political party, its leader Toshifumi Tateyama said Thursday.

Tateyama, head of the 5.3 million-strong All-Japanese Private-Sector Trade Union Confederation (Rengo), was speaking at a lecture session at a Tokyo hotel.

He said his organization will pursue a fresh partnership among labor groups and political parties which goes beyond such conventional ties as the one between the Japan Socialist Party and the No. 2 labor organization Sohyo.

He said he is skeptical about whether the four existing opposition parties can be reorganized into a new political force which is capable of replacing the Liberal Democratic Party as Japan's ruling party. The four are the JSP, Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party and the United Social Democratic Party (Shaminren).

Rengo will promote talks with friendly parties on possible cooperation in the 1989 House of Councillors election scheduled for 1989 and also the next general election for the House of Representatives, he said.

Tateyama said he has received invitations from Soviet and Chinese labor groups to visit those countries.

He said that if he goes to Moscow he will tell the Soviets that the Japanese people are united in their call for the return of four Soviet-occupied islands off Hokkaido.

North Korea

U.S. Continues Acts of 'Aerial Espionage'

SK041023 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1016 GMT 4 Mar 88

["U.S. Imperialist Aggressors Continue Aerial Espionage"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors infiltrated an "SR-71" high-speed high-altitude reconnaissance plane deep into the sky above the territorial waters east of Kosong on the east coast of our country and let it fly up to the sky above the waters off Sonbong County, North Hamgyong Province, between 1:42 and 11:49 on March 4 then from 13:37 to 13:41 on the same day, they infiltrated it deep into the sky above the waters off Chongjin, North Hamgyong Province, and perpetrated vicious serial espionage against the northern half of the republic, while letting it fly up to the sky above the waters east of Kosong.

The three cases of aerial espionage by the "SR-71" on the two consecutive days, yesterday and today, which were timed to coincide with the criminal "Team Spirit 88" joint military rehearsal, prove that their preparations for a war on the Korean peninsula have entered a very dangerous stage.

Commentator on Reagan TONG-A ILBO Interview

SK041220 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1150 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Commentary by Station Commentator Chong Pong-kil: "Stubborn Beautification of Reversing Black and White"]

[Text] Reagan recently had a so-called special written interview with the South Korean newspaper TONG-A ILBO. In this interview, he remarked that South Korea achieved a political miracle by establishing a new path to advance toward an open and democratic political system and so forth. He also described No Tae-u as a person capable of assuming the responsibility for democratization in South Korea.

Needless to say, it is not the first time that the U.S. ruling class, including Reagan, has made such remarks. However, the act of reversing black and white and praising its stooge by distorting reality in South Korea can be termed the acme of shamelessness.

All the world's people remember how fierce voices of indignation exploded in South Korea on the occasion of traitor No Tae-u's commotion of the so-called presidential inauguration. Holding rallies to denounce the illegal taking of power and mass rallies to oppose the inauguration, the South Korean people, youth, and students shouted such slogans as: Overthrow No Tae-u! End the dictatorship! and How can No Tae-u, the ringleader of massacre, become president? and maintained that the

taking of office by No Tae-u who usurped power must not be tolerated. The South Korean opposition parties also stated that they could not recognize No Tae-u as the justly-elected president.

The South Korean people and democratic forces opposed No Tae-u's taking power, burning with indignation, because the recent transfer of power is an extension of the previous military fascist dictatorship through the brigandish act of usurping power and because No Tae-u is an avatar of the extension of military rule.

This is clear to everyone who can see reality as it is and who thinks in a normal way. Also, it is clear to everyone that the No Tae-u regime, which emerged from the root of the Chon Tu-hwan dictatorial regime and inherited the foundation of the previous dictatorial system, as well as the officials who worked under that system, cannot be a democratic political system but can be only be a thoroughgoing military fascist regime.

It is as clear as day that traitor No Tae-u who played the main role in the 12 December military coup and the Kwangju massacre and who stood at the forefront to maintain and extend the military fascist dictatorship will run amok with the fascist dictatorship, not with democratization.

However, the head of the U.S. imperialists across the ocean boisterously embellished the military dictatorship, which was so branded by the South Korean people, as democratic politics and described No Tae-u, who is rejected by the South Korean people for being a fascist murderer, as the banner-holder of democracy while making preposterous remarks about political miracle and so forth.

This is indeed a ridiculous and nonsensical act. Reagan's gibberish is an intolerable insult and challenge to the South Korean people's call for the withdrawal of No Tae-u, for an end to military rule, and for democratization. The U.S. imperialists uttered a sophism in an attempt to increase the popularity of their stooge while embellishing the No Tae-u fascist regime with the veil of democracy. It is none other than the U.S. imperialists who, behind the scenes, manipulated the extension of the military rule by making No Tae-u take power.

The U.S. imperialists enabled No Tae-u to be designated as a presidential candidate and gave him the privilege of an audience in the White House. They also supported the fabrication of his victory in the election in many ways. The U.S. imperialists are attempting to seize South Korea as their permanent colony and military base by embellishing and patronizing the No Tae-u pro-U.S. dictatorial regime, regarding the regime as a watch dog, and to realize their aims for aggression and plunder.

This is shown by the fact that in a so-called written interview, Reagan stressed South Korea's yielding to his economic pressure while babbling about cooperation,

responsibility and so forth. The more frantically the U.S. imperialist ruling class propagandizes the extension of the military rule in South Korea as democratic development, the more clearly will its nature as a shameless political swindler, as the enemy of democracy, and as the ringleader of racism be exposed.

Through their practical experiences, the South Korean people came to realize as a serious lesson that as long as the U.S. imperialists' colonial domination over South Korea continues, their demands for democratization and social reform would not be achieved.

The South Korean people shout: The United States which manipulates dictatorship and interferes in domestic affairs should withdraw! and Let us overthrow the United States! while denouncing the No Tae-u regime as a puppet of the United States. The South Korean students even waged a struggle of occupying the U.S. Cultural Center in Seoul. This clearly shows the increasing spirit for anti-U.S. struggle in South Korea. The absurd remarks of the U.S. ruling class will arouse the South Korean people's anti-U.S. sentiment and will bring about a more fierce anti-U.S. storm.

Daily Views Nature of 'Team Spirit-88'

SK041133 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2134 GMT 27 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 28 February special article: "The 'Team Spirit-88' That Brings Dark Clouds of War"]

[Text] There are ever-increasing voices of the people at home and abroad who denounce the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets since early February. The world's peace-loving people brand the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise as a test nuclear war exercise and a preliminary nuclear war and express considerable concern over it.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Judging from all indications, it is evident that the U.S. imperialists can wage a new war of aggression against the DPRK at any time if we fail to maintain high revolutionary vigilance and full readiness. The situation is very tense, and a dangerous situation prevails in our country in which the U.S. imperialists could start a war at any time, tomorrow, or the day after tomorrow.

The "Team Spirit-88" war exercise conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets is not a mere military exercise but a dangerous offensive exercise for northward invasion.

Toward the end of last year, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets spread a rumor that they might not conduct the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise this year, and had continued to act in that manner until a few days

before they announced the war exercise plan. However, in fact, they had planned an even larger-scale war exercise and accelerated its preparations in a full-fledged manner.

According to reports, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets, who are conducting the "Team Spirit" war exercise for the 13th time this year, have never planned the war exercise so meticulously beforehand as they have for this year. The U.S. imperialists have prepared for the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise since early April last year when the "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise was at its frenzied climax. In early May, the U.S. imperialists had a conference with the puppets in Washington to the effect that they would massively build up the armed forces in South Korea under the pretext of the security for the Olympics and that they would conduct the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise on a larger scale. In early October, they changed the meeting place and had a closed meeting in Seoul to reconfirm this. This shows that the U.S. imperialists and their stooges have modified, supplemented, and completed the aggressive war exercise plan aimed at waging a pre-emptive strike against the northern half of the Republic for as long as 10 months.

That the U.S. imperialists and the puppets acted as if they would not conduct the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise this year was a smoke screen to hide their aggressive and bellicose nature. This was also prompted by their criminal scheme to make us lower our alertness and to play a game of fire taking advantage of it.

This year's "Team Spirit" war exercise plan announced by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets reveals this scheme of theirs. They stated that they would mobilize a large number troops, some 200,000 men, including not only the U.S. forces in South Korea and the puppet army but also the aggressive armed forces of the U.S. mainland and the Pacific region for the "Team Spirit" war exercise this year. It is a large number of troops, 200,000, capable of conducting a full-fledged war, and this, itself, is dangerous.

However, the problem is not here alone. They state that some 200,000 troops will participate in the exercise, but this is a much reduced figure. The U.S. imperialists and the puppets place all the puppet armed forces under a mobilized posture as soon as the war exercise begins, and have nearly all commanding systems, including the army corps and the divisions, participate in this exercise. This, in fact, means that all of the nearly 1 million puppet armed forces are mobilized for this war exercise.

This is also the case with the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces. Although the U.S. imperialists state that they will put some 60,000 U.S. troops from South Korea, U.S. mainland, and their bases in the Pacific into the "Team Spirit" war exercise, they have all the commanding systems of the three services of the Armed Forces participate in this war exercise. This shows that they scheme

to ignite a war on the Korean peninsula and drastically increase the number of troops dispatched from overseas. This, in fact, suggests that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets are scheming to start a war at any time.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppets, announcing the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise plan, said that they would conduct the actual exercise for two weeks from the end of March. There is, however, a problem here as well. Every time the U.S. imperialists conducted the "Team Spirit" war exercise every year for 12 years up to last year, they regarded the swift dispatch of their aggressive armed forces from U.S. mainland and the Pacific region to South Korea as the first stage of the war exercise, the playing of the game of war on the spot as the second stage, and the withdrawal after the completion of the exercise as the third stage, taking all these into account as the period of the war exercise. The actual exercise, which they say will be conducted for two weeks from the end of May, is the second stage of the "Team Spirit" war exercise, and their announcing only this as the period of the war exercise is a trick to show that the period of the exercise has been made shorter. According to the enemy's practice, this war exercise will last from early February to May, the longest in the history of the "Team Spirit" war exercise. What should be further noted is that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets will conduct the full-fledged actual exercise for 2 weeks in this war exercise instead of the one week it has taken previously.

The offensive nature of the "Team Spirit" war exercise, a test nuclear war exercise, is an open secret today. During the actual exercise period every year, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets conduct a large-scale sea-landing operation, attack in depth by airplanes, and conduct river-crossing operations in an atmosphere of real war. Last year, they conducted an adventurous nuclear war exercise, mobilizing even the E-4, the command plane for an all-out nuclear war. They even conducted the exercise in which commando forces, such as the notorious green berets and the puppet special forces corps, infiltrated into the major facilities of our Republic with miniature nuclear bombs—the nuclear backpack—and exploded them. Admitting that this joint military exercise could be extended into a war, the enemy has raved that "Team Spirit" could be converted into a war without notice.

Therefore, no one can predict what men of such nature will perpetrate this year having extended the period of the full-fledged actual exercise twice as long as before.

Conducting the war exercises up to the present, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets have attempted to find a way out of the denunciation at home and abroad with an unconvincing excuse that they are defensive exercises and annual exercises. However, viciously conducting an anti-Republic commotion this year with the airliner incident, which we have nothing to do with, they are

babbling that they will punish someone. This adds to the dangerous nature of the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise conducted by the U.S. imperialists and the puppets.

The South Korean puppets have recently made open bellicose outbursts that they have established combat readiness and a high standard of combat readiness. In recent years the puppets have been bent on establishing a wartime posture, reorganizing the reserve units into active duty ones, raving about mobilizing human and material resources necessary for wartime, conducting the work of reregistering drivers and nurses, and conducting a blood donation campaign. The U.S. imperialists have also showed unusual moves, such as building up the U.S. forces in South Korea and increasing the stockpile of war reserve materials, including new-types of (?shells) and ammunitions.

Facts show that the U.S. imperialists and the puppets, while engaging in the game of fire by concentrating armed forces under the pretext of the war exercise, could move into an attack on us at any time.

The situation on the Korean peninsula is extremely tense at present. Early this year, we made an epochal initiative to realize national reconciliation and cohesion between the North and the South and to ease tension. The criminal maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique conducting war exercises challenging our peace efforts and intentionally straining the situation must meet with denunciation at home and abroad. We will watch with alertness the reckless war frenzy of the warmongers. If the U.S. imperialists and the puppets should start a new war in Korea, our people would wage a resolute counterattack and thoroughly destroy the aggressors. The U.S. imperialists and the puppets should not run wild recklessly.

'Swarming' of Troops Into South

*SK040901 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
0007 GMT 1 Mar 88*

[NODONG SINMUN 1 March commentary: "Aggressive Forces Are Swarming In"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialist aggressor forces and operational equipment are coming into South Korea in swarms from overseas for the "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise.

According to a report approximately 450 aggressor rascals arrived in an air force base in South Korea as the advance troops of the U.S. army anti-aircraft artillery force by C-141 mobile transport aircraft from (Lewis) Base in Washington State to participate in the current "Team Spirit" war exercise.

As soon as they took off their traveling attire, the advance troops of the aggressor forces accelerated preparations for field mobilization training. A few days later, a 26,000-ton class high-speed cargo ship belonging to the

U.S. Navy arrived in Pusan from Washington, the United States, carrying much operational equipment including more than 1,000 cars of various types and helicopters.

It is reported that the operational equipment which will be mobilized in the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise will be transported to Pusan and Pohang on some 10 occasions in the future.

In the meantime, the U.S. troops in South Korea and the puppet army are showing more boisterous military moves. The rascals of the "White Horse" and "Eagle" units of the puppet army who are mobilized in the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise recently staged various exhibition drills that are required for the war exercise while shouting: Sure victory!

Such moves by the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces and the puppet army indicate that this year's "Team Spirit" joint military exercise will be staged most viciously and on an unprecedented scale.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets raved as if they would not stage the "Team Spirit" war exercise this year to deceive public opinion at home and abroad. However, behind the curtain of such a deceptive commotion, they carried out war exercise preparations more keenly than ever before. Last year the U.S. imperialists reinforced their armed forces in South Korea while babbling about the security of the Olympics during the period of the "Team Spirit-87" war exercise, which they staged by mobilizing even an E-4b plane, a command aircraft for a full-scale nuclear war, and conspired to stage the "Team Spirit-88" war exercise on a larger scale.

For about 10 months since that time, the rascals accelerated preparations for this exercise by revising and supplementing the war exercise plan. That the U.S. imperialists could bring the 26,000-ton class high-speed cargo ship carrying a full load of operational equipment into South Korea from the U.S. mainland, several thousands miles away across the Ocean, soon after they announced the war exercise plan, clearly shows how carefully the rascals' war exercise preparations were carried out.

At a time when we proposed holding a North-South joint conference to turn the situation on the Korean peninsula favorably to peace and the cause of reunification this year, they announced the "Team Spirit" war exercise plan, challenging our proposal, and began to bring the enormous armed forces of aggression to South Korea in the end, ignoring the just voices of the peaceloving people of the world who called for the suspension of the war exercise. This shows that the U.S. imperialists are the ringleaders of aggression and war and the very people who lead the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

The rascal named Smith who sneaked into South Korea leading the advance unit of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces raved that he was pleased to stage a war exercise with the puppet army in South Korea where the 1988 Olympics are to be held. War exercises and sporting events cannot be consistent with each other. That the U.S. imperialist aggressors rave about the Olympics even while reeking the powder of a war exercise proves once again that the rascals' aim of holding the Olympics in Seoul is designed to abuse the Olympics for a two Korea plot and for war preparations.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is a preliminary nuclear war and nuclear test war aimed at launching a surprise attack on our Republic and other socialist countries. With the U.S. Imperialist aggressor forces, which will be mobilized in the exercise of such a northward offensive operation, swarm into South Korea, the situation on the Korean peninsula is being further strained.

We are closely watching with heightened vigilance the reckless playing with fire by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets should not act rashly. If the warmongers ignite the flames of war in Korea in the end, they will be made to pay dearly.

Kim Yong-nam Receives GDR Solidarity Letter
SK040451 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0420 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—A solidarity letter came to Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam from Oskar Fischer, minister of foreign affairs of the German Democratic Republic, in support of the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference advanced by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his new year address for this year.

The GDR regards the proposal for the convocation of a North-South joint conference as another proof of the efforts of the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to create an atmosphere for a trust and successful dialogue and achieve a durable peace and detente on the Korean peninsula, the letter says, and continues:

The GDR expresses deep apprehensions about a negative reaction of the U.S. and South Korean ruling circles to recent peaceful initiative of the DPRK and about their announcement of the plan to hold the large scale "Team Spirit 88" military exercises.

We consider that such large-scale military rehearsal lays an obstacle to detente and security on the Korean peninsula.

Therefore, we hold that it is necessary to approach constructively the new proposal of the DPRK. We believe that the DPRK will achieve a broad contact

between the North and the South, overcome the long standing state of freeze and fundamentally improve the situation on the Korean peninsula by the joint efforts of the other socialist countries and all forces that desire peace and dialogue.

In this connection, the GDR will firmly support the DPRK in the future, too.

Daily on Meeting of Balkan Ministers

SK040507 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0432 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SIN-MUN today says that the meeting of foreign ministers of the six Balkan countries recently held in Belgrade was a positive step for easing tensions on the Balkans and promoting trust and cooperation among the countries in this region.

In the past period, the peoples of the Balkan countries have made positive efforts to convert their region into a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons, the paper says in a signed commentary, and continues:

The ministers of foreign affairs of the Balkan countries met this time to discuss the problem of making the Balkan peninsula a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons. This is a new advance in the struggle to realise the desire of the peoples in this region to live in peace free from the danger of war.

The Balkan ministerial meeting which proceeded in an atmosphere of mutual respect, understanding and trust also discussed the problem of promoting cooperation among the Balkan countries and consolidating peace. This is an expression of the desire of the Balkan peoples for the peaceful development and prosperity of the region.

The Korean people are rejoiced over the positive role of the ministerial meeting in jointly solving the regional problems awaiting a solution.

We sincerely wish the Balkan people greater success in their endeavours to convert the Balkan peninsula into a zone free from nuclear and chemical weapons and to strengthen cooperation among its countries.

Reagan's Support of No Tae-u Decried

SK040515 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0435 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—Reagan made a rignmarole at a written interview with the South Korean newspaper TONG-A ILBO that there was a "political miracle" in South Korea last year and it is necessary to accept the "returns of elections".

This is a ridiculous fiction and an insult to and mockery of the South Korean people who strongly demand the termination of the military rule and the resignation of the traitor No Tae-u.

Although Reagan said as if a "political miracle" had been brought about by the "presidential election" held in South Korea last year under the ostentatious signboard of direct presidential election, nothing has changed. If any, it is only a replacement of military dictatorship.

This notwithstanding, Reagan beautified the traitor No Tae-u, his hand-raised running dog, the chief criminal in the December 12 "army purge coup" and the mastermind of the Kwangju massacre, as a "standard-bearer of democratization" and cried out for accepting the "returns of elections". It is nothing but an intention to strengthen the colonial domination over South Korea by placating and threatening broad segments of the South Korean people who oppose the extension of the military rule.

That day Reagan coaxed the traitor No Tae-u, describing the relations between the United States and South Korea as relations of "cooperation" and a "friend". This reflects the crafty intention of the master to make him fling open the South Korean market to the U.S. imperialist monopolies at their demand.

The master's coaxing of his running dog is intended to use him more effectively as a colonial watch dog.

Daily Denounces South Crackdown on Students

SK040457 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0427 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Pyongyang March 4 (KCNA)—NODONG SIN-MUN today in a signed commentary denounces the traitor No Tae-u for brutally cracking down on the students and people of broad strata who are fighting for the independence and democratization of society.

After issuing an "emergency alert order" across South Korea on the occasion of the March First uprising anniversary, the South Korean fascist clique brutally suppressed at the point of bayonets the defenceless students and dissidents who rose in a struggle at Pagoda Park in Seoul on March 1, and whisked away scores of them, and again jailed Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and others who had been included in the so-called "amnesty, reinstatement," the commentary says, and goes on:

Such outrageous fascist frenzy is a revelation of the true color of military gangsters; it is an undisguised reactionary offensive against the patriotic democratic forces and an open challenge to freedom and democracy.

This proves that the No Tae-u "regime" is a replica and worse offshoot of the Chon Tu-hwan military fascist "regime."

Really, it is not for democratic development and harmony in South Korea that the traitor No enforced the "amnesty, reinstatement" with a glib talk about it. It is nothing but a claptrap tactics and a temporary stopgap measure to justify his seizure of power and extension of the military administration.

The fact that he is raising a furious gale of fascism immediately after he came to power suggests that he may commit another tragic Kwangju bloodbath for the maintenance of his power.

However, it will lead the military dictatorship to ruin and touch off a surging wave of indignation among the people.

Daily on Slogans, Political Bureau Meeting
SK031241 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
2228 GMT 23 Feb 88

[NODONG SINMUN 24 February editorial: "Let Us Launch Into a General March To Glorify the 40th Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic, A Grand Festival of Victors That Follows the Militant Call of the Party"]

[Text] At a time when the entire country is moving rapidly in the struggle to implement the new year address of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the WPK Central Committee issued a letter and slogans to all party members on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the DPRK. The letter and slogans of the party Central Committee reflect the heavy task set for our party, the demands for revolutionary development, and the consistent aspirations of all party members and working people.

The party Central Committee's letter and slogans overflow with high revolutionary spirit and militant spirit and are an encouraging banner that vigorously evokes the entire party membership and all the people to a general march to glorify the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, a grand festival of victors. Our party members and working people, upon receipt of the party's new militant call, are filled with great gratitude, warm passion, firm faith, and fighting spirit.

The party Central Committee's letter and slogans comprehensively elucidate the struggle tasks and the methods for implementing them, to further strengthen the subject of our revolution in conformity with the realistic demands of revolutionary development, to effect new great upsurges in socialist construction, and to accelerate the reunification of the fatherland and the victory of the chuche revolutionary cause.

The spirit consistent in the letter and the slogans is to brilliantly greet the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic with the entire party membership and all

the people working hard to effect great upsurges on all fronts of socialist construction with the chuche revolutionary spirit and bringing forth a new victory in the revolution.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We should effect a great upsurge in all fields of socialist construction again this year so that we can demonstrate to the entire world the might of our Republic, which has risen high as an independent, self-reliant, and self-defensive socialist country, overcoming the many difficulties and trials, and make the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic a grand festival of victors.

It is a most honorable task for our party members and working people to be mobilized into the struggle to glorify the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, upholding the party's militant call. The 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic is a significant event in the history of our fatherland. The DPRK is a great fatherland of the people built by the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song and led by our party. Our Republic has trod a road of continuous victory and great advancement, firmly defending national dignity under the banner of the chuche idea. Today, our Republic enjoys a heyday of growth and prosperity, and it has a future of greater splendor. As we greet it at such a time as this, the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic becomes an especially significant revolutionary festival for our people.

The 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic is an important opportunity to demonstrate the dignified appearance of our Republic, a socialist country of independence, self-reliance, and self-defense, to the entire world. Glorifying the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic is the consistent aspiration of our people who enjoy true political rights, freedom, and happy material and cultural lives and who demonstrate high national dignity and honor because they have the Republic. Incorporating this aspiration of party members and the people, our party Central Committee adopted a letter to all party members and issued slogans on the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic. This elucidated the clear objective and method for our people's struggle to brilliantly greet the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, giving a new impetus to its movement of marching forward.

The adoption and issuance of the party Central Committee's letter and slogans is the fruition of the refined leadership of the party center that boldly puts forth the revolutionary struggle policy in conformity with the demands of the revolution and the aspirations of the people and skillfully organizes and mobilizes the entire party membership and all the people into the march to realize it. This confirms well the greatness of our party, which makes everything serve to realize the noble idea and cause of the respected and beloved leader Comrade

Kim Il-song, confidently pioneers the victorious road of the Korean revolution, and endlessly adds luster to the dignity and honor of the Republic.

The struggle to implement the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee is a rewarding march to embroider with new exploits the history of our Republic, which has victoriously advanced, overcoming numerous severe difficulties and trials under the leadership of the party and the leader. Now the socialist construction of our country is at an important stage. We should effect a great upturn in the struggle to fulfill the Third 7-Year Plan this year, to accelerate the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of the Republic, and to effect new advances in realizing the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland and the chuche revolutionary cause.

When the entire party membership and all the people uphold the party's call and sound loudly the revolutionary drum beat of the 200-day campaign and strongly create the stormy wind of the great revolutionary upsurge, there will be epochal progress in the socialist construction of our country and the history of the Republic will shine more brightly.

The movement of the general march to implement the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee is a struggle to demonstrate the invincible might of the party advancing firmly to rally around the leader and the inexhaustible strength of our party. Whenever a heavy task is set for the revolution, the party trusts the people and arouses the popular masses, and the people wholeheartedly accept the party's call and wage an active struggle to realize it. This is the traditional ethos of our revolutionary ranks.

During the difficult time of the grim fatherland liberation war, our people and the brave fighters of the KPA, upholding the party's call, demonstrated unequalled valiant mass heroism, crushed the enemy's vicious offensive scheme, and scored shining victory in the war. Our party members and working people, following the party's call, effected the chollima upsurge, created miracles admired by the people of the world, and successfully attained the high targets of the Second 7-Year Plan, the grand program of socialist construction. These and many other proud exploits, possible because of this traditional ethos, are embroidered on the road of our revolution.

Because all party members and people think with the same mind and will with the party Central Committee and struggle toward one aspiration and objective, our party's call has always brought forth great victory and reality. All party members and working people should absolutely trust and follow the party and highly demonstrate the traditional struggle ethos of thoroughly realizing the party's intent and idea in the struggle to implement the party Central Committee's letter and slogans as well.

Our revolution is still following an arduous road. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are bent on engaging in anti-Republic commotion and reckless war maneuvers, and a heavy and enormous task has been set for us. We should bear deep in mind the spirit of the letter and slogans put forth by our party in conformity with the environment of the revolution at home and abroad, as well as with the task of the revolution, and should all launch into the struggle to implement them.

The party Central Committee's letter and slogans clearly and specifically put forth the tasks that all sectors, all units, and all working people should carry out with the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic approaching. The party members and working people should work to make the letter and slogans their guiding theme and thoroughly embody them in their daily struggle to implement them.

There are not many days left before the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic and we have a vast task to overcome during this period. Everyone, from the cadres to the working people, should make strenuous efforts with extraordinary resolve and high revolutionary zeal and carry out their good share of work in the general march.

Effecting a great revolutionary upsurge on all fronts of socialist construction is an important revolutionary task in significantly greeting the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic. Our party has set forth the militant task that all sectors and units should carry out during the 200-day campaign.

All party members and the working people should accept the militant task assigned by the party not only as a duty, but also as a joy and glory and devotedly struggle to carry out the task, devoting their strength and wisdom. Thus, they should ensure that innovations are effected on all battlesites of socialist construction.

The front of the main thrust of the 200-day campaign is capital construction. Party members and the working people in this sector, by vigorously waging an assault with great dignity and lofty sense of responsibility, should expedite to the maximum the period of construction of major construction projects, including the construction of power plants, coal mines, metal industry bases, chemical industry bases, and light metal production bases, and should maintain the quality of construction at the highest level.

In particular, it is important to complete the construction of a plant capable of producing 100,000 tons of vinalon at the construction site of the Sunchon Vinalon Complex by 9 September [the founding day of the DPRK] and to more vigorously accelerate construction of Kwangbok Street and other major construction projects in Pyongyang.

All plants and enterprises should fulfill the state plan this year without fail by regularizing production. The rural economy sector should effect a new turn in development of the rural economy and agricultural production by thoroughly implementing the rural theses and the party's policy of giving priority to agriculture. Along with this, we should actively develop fisheries, transportation, trade, and external economic activities. All sectors and units of the national economy should brilliantly adorn our national holiday by greeting the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic with great labor gifts. It is imperative to develop the country's science and technology by accelerating socialist cultural construction along with economic construction and, thus, enhance the overall cultural and technological level of the working people.

The literary and art sector should create more literary and art works with high ideological and artistic value so as to actively contribute to inspiring the working people's struggle for socialist construction.

The People's Army should actively accelerate the revolutionization of the entire army and, thus, should more firmly prepare itself to become the combat ranks of revolutionary fighters who are loyal to the party and the leader. All soldiers of the People's Army should enhance revolutionary vigilance against the enemies' vicious war maneuvers, firmly defend the fatherland of socialism, and, thus, demonstrate their gallant spirit of 1-is-a-match-for-100 in the great battle of socialist construction.

Clearly elucidated in the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee are the direction and method to effect great upsurges in socialist construction. Once the tasks elucidated in the letter and slogans have been smoothly carried out, the overall might of the country will be further strengthened and our Republic will shine as the happy cradle of the people.

Strengthening the party and the revolutionary ranks is an important political task and constitutes a decisive guarantee for success in today's general march. We should strengthen by all means the might of *chuche* in our revolution by more firmly arming ourselves with the *chuche* idea and firmly deepening the cohesion and unity of the party and the revolutionary ranks.

When all party members and the working people are armed with the *chuche* idea, firmly united around the party Central Committee, and display their loyalty to the party and the leader, there is no difficulty that cannot be broken through and there is no fortress that cannot be occupied.

Today's struggle to gloriously greet the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic is precisely and literally a movement of general march by the entire party and all the people. Those who should stand at the head of this

great march are none other than our party members. Members of the WPK are the vanguard fighters for the cause of *chuche* and the revolutionaries who possess the most precious political life.

The honor of party members and the value of their lives lie precisely in always breathing together with the party and in devoting their all to implementing the tasks assigned by the party.

That our party members have again received the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee constitutes an expression of our party's great confidence in and expectation toward them. For our party members who have cherished in their hearts the indomitable faith to share their destinies with the party, there is no greater honor and pride than to become the standard bearers of struggle and creators of heroic exploits.

Now, when the party has called on the entire party and all the people to join the rewarding general march, it is precisely the time when the blood of loyalty should boil and the pulse of struggle should beat in the hearts of our party members.

Our party members should push ahead with today's general march with the spirit and zeal of having smashed the brutal enemies, rifle in hand and standing at the head of the revolutionary ranks, in the days of war disaster in the past, with the firm will and stamina of having created socialist industrialization from the ashes of the postwar period, and with the spirit and vigor of having waged the great 70-day battle.

When party members are mobilized and when 1 moves 10, 10 move 100, and 100 move 1,000, amazing miracles are surely to be created everywhere in the country.

The value and joy of the struggle of revolutionaries find expression in achieving victory under arduous circumstances, not under easy circumstances. It is the spirit and disposition of members of the WPK to firmly advance forward even on the road of arduous struggle with firm and optimistic faith and without knowing vacillation or wavering.

Today, our strength has become incomparably stronger than during the war and the postwar period. We have been provided all the conditions under which we can carry out any tasks.

All party members should repeatedly advance forward with firm faith in certain victory and indomitable fighting spirit. Only when party members, who have been indoctrinated with the revolutionary spirit of Mt Paektu and who have been tempered over the course of tasting the sweet and bitter of life, vigorously and gallantly dash forward, breaking through all manner of difficulties and trials, with the spirit of crossing burning rivers and

walking on muddy roads, can the working people struggle with firm faith and all sectors and units continuously advance forward with continuous innovation.

It is important to enhance the role of party organizations and functionaries in the general march struggle to implement the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee.

Comrade Kim Chong-il, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau and secretary of the party Central Committee, has indicated: To unconditionally and thoroughly implement the party's decisions and instructions, party organizations and party cadre members should properly plan and organize their organizational work. Only when party organizations and party cadre members properly plan and organize organizational work can they inspire revolutionary zeal and initiative among party members and the working people and, thus, implement the party's decisions and instructions to the end.

Today, the zeal of our party members and working people is very high, and their stamina is also good. However, the problem depends on how party organizations and functionaries organize, mobilize, and lead the masses into today's general march and lead it.

That we could register a brilliant success in the struggle to implement the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee in the past is closely related to the fact that party organizations had high combat capability and that functionaries smoothly performed their duties.

Party organizations are the political general staffs that organize and guide the work of implementing the party's line and policy at their respective units. Only when party organizations seethe can the entire party seethe. Only when the entire party seethes can all the people be unanimously mobilized.

Party organizations at all levels should plan and organize the work to implement the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee in a substantial manner and should consistently wage political and ideological work by mobilizing all propaganda and agitation means. Thus, they should lead the entire country to seethe with an enhanced political atmosphere. Along with this, they should constantly deepen the struggle to implement the letter and slogans without letup to brilliantly greet the festival of September.

Party committees and party functionaries at all levels should firmly establish the revolutionary discipline under which all party organizations move as one under the leadership of the party. Party committees and party functionaries should also mingle with the masses to indoctrinate and mobilize them according to the demands of the Chongsan-ri spirit and the Chongsan-ri method. In particular, they should vigorously inspire party members and the working people into implementing the 200-day campaign task.

Functionaries are the core forces of our party. Therefore, only when functionaries make strenuous efforts can combat ranks display their strength. Functionaries should boldly and vigorously push ahead with the work of implementing the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee with high revolutionary spirit.

Along with this, functionaries should open the march, standing at the head of their ranks, as commanders of the anti-Japanese guerrillas did in the past. Thus, they should carry out their combat command in a responsible manner.

Economic guidance functionaries and functionaries at plants, enterprises, and cooperative farms should deeply realize that implementing the economic task of the 200-day campaign depends on their abilities in organization and command and should thoroughly plan and coordinate their economic organizational work. By so doing, they can enhance the superiority of the Taean work system and the new agricultural guidance system. Along with this, economic guidance functionaries and functionaries at plants, enterprises, and cooperative farms should see to it that all sectors and units fully mobilize and utilize inner reserves and further strengthen the struggle for increased production and economization.

The party's order of march has already been issued. Our struggle has become more rewarding, and its victory is certain.

Our party and people are the great party and the revolutionary people who have never stopped their struggle, but who have vigorously advanced under the banner of the revolution under any difficult circumstances.

The goal of our struggle is high. However, by brilliantly achieving that goal, we should glorify the honor of the party in carrying out the revolution and, thus, demonstrate the heroic spirit of chuche Korea once again.

Thanks to the chuche idea of Comrade Kim Il-song and the tested leadership of the party center, we can be ever-victorious and expedite the bright future of communism. Let all of us make a general march and a general assault to glorify the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic as a great festival of victors, holding aloft the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and firmly uniting around the party Central Committee.

Kang Hui-won Addresses Pyongyang Rally
SK021157 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1000 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Report by Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau, chief secretary of the Pyongyang municipal party committee, and chairman of the Pyongyang municipal people's committee, at a Pyongyang rally held in Kim Il-song Square on the afternoon of 26 February—recorded]

[Text] Comrades, a meeting of the WPK Central Committee Political Bureau held on 20 February adopted a letter from the party Central Committee to all party members and its slogans, upholding the lofty will of the great leader and the intention of the party, and called on all party members to turn out for the 200-day battle to grandly celebrate the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic.

Clarifying the purpose for sending the letter of the party Central Committee to all party members and issuing its slogans at the party Central Committee Political Bureau meeting, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song gave programmatic teachings on effecting great new upsurges in socialist construction through the all-out mobilization of the entire party and all the people on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic, a significant event in the history of our fatherland, thereby clearly indicating once again the future path along which our party and people will advance. [applause]

In hearty response to the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Republic, which will lay a new landmark in enhancing and developing our fatherland and in carrying out our revolutionary cause, all party members and workers of our capital fully and ardently support and welcome them amid endlessly deep emotions and excitement and overflow with a burning resolve to brilliantly implement the militant tasks assigned to them.

The letter and slogans of the party Central Committee most correctly reflect the demands of our developing revolution, the duties assigned to the party, the demands of the situation that prevails in our country, and the aspirations of our people; unfold a resplendent vista for socialist construction to our people; and clearly indicate directions and ways to effect great new upsurges in the revolution and construction this significant year. [applause]

The basic spirit consistent in the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee is to make the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic shine as a grand festival of victors and to effect a new turn in discharging the overall revolutionary cause by further consolidating the main force of our revolution in compliance with the realistic demands of the developing revolution and by effecting great upsurges once again in socialist construction with the *chuche* revolutionary spirit.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: By effecting great upsurges in all fields of socialist construction this year, we should defeat the accumulated difficulties and ordeals, give full play to the might of our Republic, which has grown to be an independent, self-reliant, and self-defending socialist country, and make the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic shine as a grand festival of victors.

Turning out for the struggle to make the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic shine while upholding the militant appeals of the party is a matchlessly honorable and lofty duty assigned to all party members and workers today.

As clearly indicated in the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee, the DPRK is a great victory that the Korean communists and patriotic people have obtained through a protracted and arduous revolutionary struggle under the leadership of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, and the genuine socialist fatherland of all the Korean people.

The red and blue flag of our Republic is dyed with the red of blood, which numerous revolutionary martyrs and patriots have shed for the freedom and independence of the fatherland. Also, the century-long aspirations of our people to enjoy a happy and rewarding life to their hearts' content in their genuine fatherland dwell in the flag.

It was precisely because the fatherland is more precious than anything else that our people waged the bloody struggle against the Japanese imperialists, arms in hand, under indescribably difficult conditions, that they fought displaying matchless heroism in the arduous fatherland liberation war against the armed invasion of the U.S. imperialists, and that, while tightening their belts, they struggled, giving full play to the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude above the ashes left by the war.

Today our Republic has overcome all ordeals of history and has majestically risen as an independent, self-reliant, and self-defending socialist country. It sheds rays on the world as the *chuche* fatherland, because it brilliantly embodies the great *chuche* idea, and as the model country of socialism. [applause]

Having traversed the untrod, complicated, and ordeal-filled path under the wise leadership of the party and the leader while upholding the banner of the DPRK, the glorious fatherland, our people have finally climbed to a high peak where the complete victory of socialism and the ultimate victory of our revolution are clearly in sight.

If we accelerate the struggle for grand socialist construction by stirring ourselves once again to effect new upsurges in the struggle for grand socialist construction, we will firmly climb to the high peak of the complete victory of socialism and the might of our fatherland will be further enhanced. Thus, the ultimate victory of our revolution will come even nearer at hand. Then, the independent and creative life of our people will become more rewarding and vigorous and the superiority of our socialist system will be more powerfully displayed in all aspects. [applause]

By reflecting the demands of our developing revolution, which has entered a new higher stage, and the revolutionary aspirations of our party and people, the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee call on the entire party and all the people to unanimously turn out for the all-out march toward victoriously carrying out the grand socialist construction unprecedented in the history of our country's socialist construction. [shouts of slogans and applause]

It is also a pressing demand of the present situation for the entire party and all the people to be mobilized to effect great new upsurges in socialist construction.

Today the internal and external situation of our revolution is more complicated and strained than ever before.

While intensifying exploitation and plunder against the people of developing countries by cunning neocolonial methods, international imperialism, led by the U.S. imperialists who have long suffered serious political and economic crises, is concentrating the arrow of attack on opposing socialism, clinging to military buildups and the arms race on an unprecedentedly tremendous scale.

Our country is becoming one of the focal points in the U.S. imperialists' counterrevolutionary global strategy.

Having occupied the southern half of our fatherland over the past 40 years and having behaved as colonial rulers, the U.S. imperialists have turned South Korea into the largest forward nuclear base in the Far East and have maliciously maneuvered against our Republic, which is advancing with the red flag of the revolution in the oriental post of socialism, while kicking up the commotion of the large-scale "Team Spirit" joint military exercise every year together with the South Korean puppets. The U.S. imperialists so heatedly oppose our Republic by inciting the South Korean puppet clique and by rallying the Japanese imperialists and other imperialists in the world precisely because our Republic has unceasingly grown and has been strengthened into an invincible revolutionary force, and the voice of *chuche*, which echoes and rings out in Pyongyang, the capital of revolution, has become the guiding banner of our era that powerfully encourages and prompts the progressive people of the world in the anti-U.S. struggle for independence.

History shows that whenever the offensives of counterrevolutionary forces become intense, two utterly contradictory tenors appear. While cowards and those who are weak in their convictions in the revolutionary betray the revolution and go down the road of surrendering to the enemy, genuine revolutionaries lead the revolution to a greater upsurge, upholding the banner of the revolution higher and countering the enemy's offensives.

The letter and slogans of the party Central Committee reflect our party's iron will and our people's firm belief in expediting the independent reunification of the

fatherland and the consummation of the *chuche* revolutionary cause by turning adverse circumstances into favorable circumstances and by effecting constant upsurges in the revolution and construction while upholding higher the banner of socialism, the banner of the revolution, without being shaken at all even though many difficulties and ordeals may block the future road of the revolution and even though the situation is strained.

The letter and slogans of the party Central Committee powerfully show the wise nature of the leadership of our party, which opens a new phase of the revolution by presenting active fighting policies always in conformity with the demands of the developing revolution and by mobilizing the entire party and all the people to realize them. [applause]

Whenever great tasks have arisen before the revolution and difficult struggles have been waged, our party has clearly informed all party members of its intentions and has aroused all the people by sending letters to all party members and by presenting revolutionary slogans, thus victoriously weathering difficulties along the road of advance and achieving great advances and upswings in the revolution and construction;

Because of these revolutionary and aggressive fighting policies and the wise leadership of our party, our people were able to resolutely defeat the desperate offensives of the enemy and achieve shining victory in the fatherland liberation war. Also, they were able to successfully perfect the historic task of industrialization at a single stroke by fanning the flames of the great Chollima upswing during the grim days after the war and have been able to display the honor of proud victory in fulfilling successive long-range plans.

By always devotedly struggling in hearty response to the calls of the great leader and the militant appeals of the party, our people have constantly created epochal miracles and exploits that amaze the people of the world, and have proudly demonstrated the lofty trait of being an endlessly loyal people to the party and the revolution.

Because of the great and invincible unity and cohesion in which the great leader firmly trusts our party members and people and in which the people accomplish to the end through thick and thin whatever the leader desires and the party center intends to do, our party and people have been able to always win victory on the arduous and grim road of the revolution, and have set forth a program for grand economic construction to capture the high fortress of the complete victory of socialism and are effecting new exploits and renovations every day in the struggle to realize it.

Indeed, the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee, which give great pride and confidence and endless faith and courage to our people, are the militant flag of an all-out march, which all the party members and

workers should uphold in advancing toward the site of this year's felicitous grand festival, the guideline of struggle, which they should firmly adhere to in successfully capturing the fortress of grand socialist construction and in expediting the complete victory of socialism, and the norm of action they should embody in their routine work and activities.

By releasing the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee, our party has launched the grand struggle to greet the great September festival as being most felicitous and issued an order for an all-out march to arouse a revolutionary gale in our country. For all party members and workers to dynamically march upholding the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee is a magnificent march to display to the entire world the combat capabilities and majesty of our party, which has been consolidated amid struggle, and to endlessly make our party shine as a *chuche*-oriented revolutionary party forever and our Republic as a *chuche*-oriented socialist power.

The great invincible unity and cohesion of our people, who are firmly united organizationally and ideologically around the party and the leader, and the independent main force of our revolution will be further enhanced through this struggle. Also, a new epochal turn will be effected in carrying out the *chuche* revolutionary cause through this struggle. [applause]

The letter and slogans of the party Central Committee will powerfully lead our people to a classless society, a society that has won complete victory, in the near future and make it possible to consolidate our revolutionary base into being invincible and to more vigorously accelerate the cause of national reunification.

Thoroughly implementing the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee—a demonstration of the greatness of our party, which always effects constant upswings in the revolution and construction under its initiative, and an exhibition of the heroic mettle of our people firmly united around the party and the leader—is not only of great significance in following the road of march for grand socialist construction and in expediting the ultimate victory of our revolution, but will also greatly encourage the fighting South Korean people and clearly show the justness and vitality of the *chuche* idea to the progressive people of the world who are pioneering a new independent life.

Comrades, today our party and people are assigned the honorable but heavy task of successfully fulfilling the Third 7-Year plan by effecting great upsurges in socialist construction while upholding the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee.

The Third 7-Year plan presented by our party is a grand program for socialist construction to expedite the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of the

Republic and the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland. An important key to advancing our revolution toward a new stage and a firm guarantee for further making the honor of our party and the Republic shine lie in successfully fulfilling the Third 7-Year plan.

This year is an important year in which a decisive turn should be enacted in carrying out the Third 7-year plan. This year's struggle is, indeed, a responsible and honorable struggle. Even further strengthening the might of our Republic, opening a firm vista for successfully carrying through the Third 7-Year plan, and expediting the complete victory of socialism, after all, importantly depend on how this year's struggle is organized and conducted.

The 200-day combat, which was ordered in the letter of the party Central Committee, is an honorable struggle that gives full play to the justness and vitality of our party's great *chuche* idea and the party's lines and policies, and a sacred struggle that demonstrates the might of *chuche* Korea in which the leader, the party, and the people are advancing in single-hearted unity. Also, it is a rewarding struggle to display the revolutionary mettle of the era of the Workers' Party and the might and pluck of our party by advancing at an unprecedented speed and a grand struggle to firmly consolidate an ever-lasting foundation for the eternal prosperity of our fatherland.

Now, as in the past, our party is also conducting operations of a grand march to bring about new revolutionary upsurges in socialist construction, trusting our party members and workers and relying on the strength of our people.

By bearing the intention of our party in mind, all party members and workers should turn out as one to the gigantic and grand march of today, give full play to the matchless spirit of devotion and bravery, and again effect miracles and renovation that amaze the people of the world on all fronts and at all units of socialist construction. Thus, they should make the entire capital briskly surge with high revolutionary zeal and fighting spirit and more proudly embroider the history of our socialist construction with great creations and heroic exploits.

The main front of the 200-day combat is major construction. Our party demands that efforts be concentrated on the construction of power plants, coal mines, metallurgical industrial bases, great chemical industrial bases, light metal production bases, and other major establishments—all of decisive significance in attaining the main goals of the Third 7-Year plan and in enhancing the might of the self-reliant socialist national economy.

Our city of Pyongyang should smoothly meet the growing demand for electricity by operating generating equipment in the Pyongyang thermal power plant and all other small- and medium-sized power plants at full capacity.

All coal mines in Pyongyang, including the Kangdong coal mining complex, should constantly increase coal production by constructing new pits, by giving priority to stripping and tunneling, and by actively introducing new techniques and advanced mining methods.

We are also assigned the honorable task of accelerating the construction of Kwangbok Street and other projects while upholding the party's grand conception of the construction of the capital and the task of refreshing the appearance of Pyongyang by effecting a change in environmental readjustment work.

The construction workers and volunteers of the capital should complete the construction of Kwangbok Street and other major projects before the 9 September anniversary by fanning the flames of the struggle to create the speed of the construction of Pyongyang, which was initiated by the party, and build Pyongyang into a grandiose and splendid modern city in conformity with the aspirations and expectations of our people and the people of the world by building more tidy silicate brick houses.

To accelerate the construction of major projects, including Kwangbok Street, all construction workers should conduct their work energetically and, at the same time, equipment and materials should be well maintained.

Party members and workers of the city charged with the production of equipment and materials should produce and supply equipment and materials needed for the construction of major projects in a timely manner by remembering to adopt the attitude of being masters of the revolution, and all citizens should vigorously turn out to assist.

While concentrating efforts on the construction of major projects, Pyongyang should further fan the flames of the light industrial revolution.

The great leader and our party, which have paid deep attention and concern to developing Pyongyang and the lives of citizens, have recently taken another important measure in decisively boosting the production of the people's consumer goods by operating all light industrial plants in Pyongyang at full capacity.

By thoroughly implementing the programmatic teachings of the great leader, we should produce more diverse good-quality clothes, shoes, and foodstuffs so that every shop overflows with all kinds of people's consumer goods and the people's standard of living is further improved.

For all plants and enterprises to normalize production at a high level is the central task assigned to us this year. All plants and enterprises in the city should fulfill the daily, monthly, quarterly, and index state plans without fail by planning and coordinating the organization and command of production, by efficiently guaranteeing conditions for production, and by thoroughly establishing the discipline of cooperative production.

Agriculture is a major front on which we should continue to concentrate our efforts. We should effect a new turn in the development of the rural economy and agricultural production by advancing while firmly adhering to the social rural thesis and the party's agriculture-first policy.

At this moment, Pyongyang should complete, at an early date, the approximately 15,000-chongbo sprinkler irrigation construction to perfect rural irrigation to a high level in an all-masses movement and vigorously push ahead with the struggle to complete the task of the 4-point technological revolution—the irrigationalization, electrification, mechanization, and science-orientation of the rural economy—within several years. With the high self-awakened consciousness of being the masters of the rural village who assume responsibility for rice storage of the country, the agricultural workers of the capital should assiduously do farming work in a scientific and technological way in compliance with the demands of the *chuche* farming method and surely reap a bumper harvest this year, thus making our national holiday a merrier and more felicitous day.

Also, the citizens of the capital should further strengthen assistance to drastically develop the work of cultivating maritime products.

Transport is the pilot of the national economy. Only when the problem of transport is solved can production be normalized and the combat for grand construction be successfully guaranteed. Pyongyang should see to it that railway transport capacity is increased by producing many kinds of electric locomotives, including 8-axle electric locomotives, which are of decisive significance in realizing the introduction of heavy-duty rolling stock on the railways, and many kinds of passenger coaches. Also, discipline should be strengthened and more freight should be transported in a timely manner.

In particular, we should operate all vehicles and electric cars at full capacity by increasing the production of buses and electric cars, by reducing the time for their repair, and by correctly establishing the equipment maintenance system, thus bringing about a new turn in the transport work of the capital.

Developing trade and external economic work is an important task that arises in accelerating socialist economic construction and in enhancing friendly and cooperative relations with other countries.

The organs, plants, and enterprises in the capital should actively find products for export, improve the quality of exports, and establish firm discipline and order in which plans for export are fulfilled without fail.

Science and technology very rapidly develop in our era. Without scientific and technological support economic upsurges and the high speed of progress cannot be guaranteed.

By firmly establishing chuche in scientific research work and by giving full play to the superiority of socialist collectivism, all scientists and engineers should solve pressing scientific and technological problems that arise in socialist construction in a timely manner and dynamically wage the struggle to elevate the science and technology of the country to a world level.

The struggle to successfully wage the 200-day combat initiated by the party and to effect great upswings in all fields of socialist construction further than ever before demands that the sense of responsibility of the party organizations and guiding functionaries be increased.

The party organizations and guiding functionaries in the capital should thoroughly establish revolutionary discipline and order in which everyone moves as one under the leadership of the party, and powerfully conduct political work among the masses as demanded by the Chongsan-ri spirit and method, thereby making the entire country overflow with revolutionary enthusiasm and optimism and the flames of the revolution fiercely blaze up at all combat sites of socialist construction.

We should firmly adhere to the Taean work system, the most superior communist enterprise management method, and strengthen the collective guidance of party committees. In addition, we should assiduously plan and coordinate economic organization work on socialist economic principles and based on scientific economic and technological (?computation).

The position guiding functionaries should take in today's combat as the van of ranks and combat sites. All guiding functionaries should become the standard bearers of the ranks, always roll up their sleeves in carrying out difficult and arduous work, and vigorously lead the combat ranks with overflowing ambitious spirit and passion, blowing the bugle of the march.

All party organizations, guiding functionaries, and three revolutions team members should constantly deepen and develop the movement to win the red flag of the three revolutions and the movement to learn the examples set by unheralded heroes by firmly adhering to our party's lines of the three revolutions and the policy of the three revolutions team movement, thus seeing to it that a new turn is effected in discharging the ideological, technological, and cultural revolutions. [shouts of slogans and applause]

Comrades, although the struggle to effect great upsurges in socialist construction is difficult and grand, our vista is shining and resplendent and our victory is obvious.

When the tasks assigned in the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee are smoothly carried out, the overall might of our country will further increase and our Republic will shed rays as a happier people's paradise better to live in.

Having accepted the letters and slogans of the party central committee, our party members and workers are fanning the vehement flames of struggle with the conviction for the future, with the faith in sure victory and with the resolve of soldiers who have turned out in a blitzkrieg.

As shown by the history of our party's struggle, there is nothing that has not been put into practice once our party has made a determination and our people have turned out, and there is no fortress that has not been captured. If called by the party, our people plow through whatever waves and storms and implement its appeal through thick and thin. This is our people's traditional ethos.

All party members and workers should create heroic exploits once again in the rewarding struggle to effect new upsurges in socialist construction, thereby fulfilling their lofty mission and duty of being the fighters of our party. [applause]

Saying that only when the capital of the revolution surges with great revolutionary upsurges can the entire country seethe with them, the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught that Pyongyang should always take the lead in production and construction. Heartily upholding the great leader's teachings and the party's policies, implementing them without the slightest deviation, confirming their justness and vitality, and always advancing at the van of the revolution and construction are the revolutionary workstyle and traditional fighting spirit of party members and workers in the capital.

The workers in our capital are heroic people who have effected a great Chollima upswing and created the speed of Pyongyang in construction, which has amazed the people of the world with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude which is in hearty response to the great leader's appeals during the arduous postwar days when not a brick was left unbroken, and who have fulfilled the party's grand long-range plans at the van.

As in the past, we should take the lead in the struggle to implement the tasks in the letter and slogans of the party Central Committee by giving full play to the revolutionary mettle and mass heroism of workers in the capital, thus making shine the honor and pride of the citizens in the capital, who live with the great leader and the dear

leader Comrade Kim Chong-il near them, and rewarding the great expectations and trust of the party and the leader with loyalty. [applause and shouts of slogans]

We have a firm guarantee for victoriously conducting the 200-day combat. The respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who leads the Korean revolution to the straight road of victory through his great ideas and leadership, commands this grand combat, and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, who leads the revolution and construction to reform and upsurge through an iron-clad will, matchless boldness, extraordinary organizational abilities, and revolutionary command abilities, guides this combat at the van.

We have the great *chuche* idea and our party's lines and policies that embody it. The *chuche* idea is the great guiding idea of the revolution and construction and the banner of national prosperity and the victory of socialist construction. Only when we advance upholding the revolutionary banner of the *chuche* idea can we become ever-victorious. This is the precious truth that has been tested and confirmed over the entire historic course since the Korean revolution was initiated.

All party members and workers should vigorously turn out to the movement of the all-out march toward new victory, following the leadership of the party and the leader and upholding the banner of the *chuche* idea. No force can block the march of the great leader, the great party, and heroic people endlessly loyal to them in single-hearted unity. There will be only victory and glory for us.

Let all of us display the heroic mettle of *chuche* Korea once again to the entire world by brilliantly fulfilling the task of the 200-day combat assigned by the party and by effecting great upsurges in socialist construction in firm unity around the party Central Committee led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song. [applause]

Long live the great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song! [shouts and applause]

Long live the glorious WPK, the organizer and encourager of all victories of the Korean people! [shouts and applause]

U.S. 'Maneuvers' To Exploit Olympics

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[From the "Focus on Topics" program; dialogue between station commentator Ko Il-chol and unidentified announcer: "The U.S. Maneuvers to Exploit the 1988 Olympics for Permanent Division and A War of Northward Invasion"]

[Text] [Announcer] How are you? As everyone knows well, the U.S. imperialist aggressors' maneuvers to exploit the 1988 Olympics for permanent division and a

war of northward invasion have become more unscrupulous these days. So, in this hour I would like to discuss this with you. Would you comment first on the U.S. aggressors' reckless military moves that have been perpetrated under the pretext of security for the Olympics?

[Ko Il-chol] The U.S. imperialist aggressors, who have staged the provocative "Team Spirit-88" joint military exercise, a test nuclear war and a preliminary war, together with the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring despite strong opposition and rejection at home and abroad, have recently reinforced their armed forces of aggression under the pretext of the so-called security of the 1988 Olympics and, thus, have unscrupulously laid bare to the world their attempt to ignite the fuse of war in this land.

As has been reported, on 3 February, Menetrey, commander of the South Korean-U.S. Combined Forces Command, announced the U.S. plan to reinforce U.S. Naval Forces and Air Force units in the areas around the Korean Peninsula on the threshold of the 1988 Olympics. Recently, the U.S. administration announced a detailed plan for this.

[Announcer] I understand that the U.S. Administration recently announced a military deployment plan in connection with the 1988 Olympics. According to the plan, during the period of the Olympics, the United States will deploy one or two aircraft carriers accompanying 6 to 10 escort naval ships on waters around the Korean Peninsula; move U.S. Air Force aircraft on Okinawa, Japan to U.S. air bases in South Korea to reinforce the U.S. Air Force units there; mobilize a U.S. marine amphibious combat battalion in South Korea; and strengthen reconnaissance flights and satellite surveillance activities.

[Ko Il-chol] Yes, the U.S. Administration announced a military deployment plan. On (28) February the U.S. Administration announced a plan to stage a large-scale naval military exercise this fall, when the 1988 Olympics are to be held, in the waters around South Korea. At that time, the U.S. Administration announced that the naval military exercise will be staged without prior announcement.

[Announcer] This is indeed a dangerous military move that will evoke grave concern over the destiny of the 1988 Olympics and the situation on the Korean Peninsula. I think such dangerous military moves of the U.S. aggressors perpetrated under the pretext of the 1988 Olympics are by no means new ones.

[Ko Il-chol] That's right. As we know well, the so-called first plenary meeting to the 9th South Korean-U.S. Military Committee and the 19th South Korean-U.S. Annual Security Consultative Conference was held in Washington on 5 and 6 May last year. At the meeting, a series of U.S. military measures for the 1988 Olympics were agreed upon. The U.S. military measures agreed upon included: On the threshold of the 1988 Olympics, an intelligence collection system, a further reinforced

system than the one in place at the time of the 1986 Asian Games, will be established; a U.S. Naval fleet will be deployed on the waters around South Korea; the "Team Spirit" war exercise will be further expanded in 1988 and 1989; and all possible efforts will be made to rapidly mobilize and deploy U.S. reinforcement units to South Korea. At the meeting, an agreement with regard to modernization of war supplies, including ammunition, was signed. Thus, the meeting agreed upon the so-called U.S. military measures for the 1988 Olympics.

Last October, the U.S. administration reaffirmed such a military reinforcement plan. Since then, whenever an opportunity has presented itself, the U.S. aggressors have clamored that the U.S. will mobilize, if necessary, the armed forces of the U.S. Air Force and Navy, not to mention U.S. ground forces, for the security of the 1988 Olympics. In a nutshell, the military reinforcement plan announced by the U.S. Administration this time is precisely based on the agreement reached at the aforementioned meeting.

[Announcer] Meantime, the U.S. aggressors have clamored as if such a large-scale military reinforcement plan were aimed at checking and frustrating the North's attempt to hinder the 1988 Olympics and at making the Olympics successful. This is indeed preposterous. What do you think of this?

[Ko Il-chol] Yes, it is indeed preposterous. As our people and the people of the world know, the North is not attempting to frustrate the 1988 Olympics as clamored about by the U.S. aggressors. To the contrary, in fact, the North has put forward a proposal for cohosting the 1988 Olympics and many other related realistic and reasonable overtures to make the Olympics successful and to rescue the Olympic movement from crisis. And it has made all possible efforts to realize the Olympics.

This year alone, the North not only advanced a proposal to hold a North-South joint conference attended by the persons in authority of the North and the South, representatives of political parties and public organizations in the North and the South, and people of all walks of life in the North and the South and to discuss and resolve the problem of cohosting the 1988 Olympics, the problem of suspending large-scale military exercises, the problem of holding multinational disarmament talks, and the problem of suspending slandering and defamation between the North and the South, but has also made all sincere efforts for the realization of the proposal.

[Announcer] Your point is that the so-called security of the Olympics the U.S. aggressors have clamored about is nothing but brazen-faced sophistry designed to justify their large-scale military reinforcement maneuvers, isn't it?

[Ko Il-chol] That's right.

[Announcer] Then, why are the U.S. aggressors attempting to reinforce such huge armed forces of aggression under the pretext of the Olympics? Would you explain why?

[Ko Il-chol] Such military reinforcement maneuvers by the U.S. aggressors are designed to obliterate by force of arms our people's struggle against the U.S. colonial rule and military rule and to guarantee the security of power for the pro-U.S. military fascist group which will be inaugurated on 25 February. By so doing, the U.S. aggressors are attempting to maintain their colonial rule over South Korea forever.

As we know, on 25 February a so-called change in government will take place. In other words, the dictatorial power will be shifted between the two pro-U.S. dictators. The so-called change in government will be followed by the 13th general elections. With this as an occasion, an all-out confrontation between the democratic forces opposing the extension of the military dictatorship and the fascist forces attempting to extend the military dictatorship will take place.

[Announcer] This can be easily judged by the fact alone that even at a time when the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u ring is perpetrating unprecedented wholesale arrests and suppression while clamoring about impure elements' possible disturbances on the threshold of the so-called peaceful change in government and the 1988 Olympics, students at Seoul National University staged a demonstration against traitor No Tae-u's presidential inauguration on 9 February.

[Ko Il-chol] That's right. Such a reality and the political situation to be developed in the future have brought serious uneasiness and terror not only to traitor No Tae-u, but also to the U.S. aggressors who are viciously attempting to make this land a military base, the largest in the Far East, in a bid for their aggression against the North and other countries in Asia. This is why the U.S. aggressors have attempted to reinforce their armed forces of aggression under the pretext of the Olympics in a bid to obliterate the democratic and patriotic forces by force of arms, to guarantee the security of power of traitor No Tae-u, to continue their colonial ruling system in this land, and to perpetuate the country's division.

[Announcer] I think that one of the reasons for the U.S. aggressors' military reinforcement under the pretext of the Olympics is that in case the Olympics are aborted due to our people's strong resistance against the U.S. colonial rule and the extension of the military dictatorship, they will shift the blame for this on the North and wage a criminal northward armed invasion. What do you think of this?

[Ko Il-chol] You are correct. [words indistinct] In actuality, Washington has stockpiled 10,000 tons of military supplies for the U.S. Eighth Army in South Korea and the South Korean Army in a U.S. Army base in Japan.

This vividly shows how frantically the U.S. aggressors have waged a military buildup and preparations for a war of northward invasion, exploiting the Olympics. However, in no way will the U.S. aggressors be able to realize such criminal maneuvers.

[Announcer] That's right. The U.S. aggressors should immediately renounce their maneuvers to exploit the Olympics, the international sports festival for peace and friendship, for the continuation of the colonial ruling system and the criminal war provocation commotion. Thank you.

South Korea

Opposition Parties Move Closer to Merger

SK031101 Seoul YONHAP in English
1005 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 3 (YONHAP)—With sharp differences remaining over the future leadership of the proposed unified opposition party, South Korea's two main opposition parties moved one step closer to the opposition merger Thursday as they each formed a 150-member preparatory committee to deal with the merger of their parties.

The formation of the intra-party special committees came Thursday morning when the two parties — the Reunification Democratic Party and the Party for Peace and Democracy — held their own special national conventions. The two special committees are to hold a joint conference on Friday.

In their separate meetings of party delegates, the two parties reaffirmed their position for a unified opposition and resolved to achieve a grand opposition unity to ensure victory in the parliamentary elections expected in mid-April.

Despite the progress toward a unified opposition agreed to in principle by rival opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam of the RDP and Kim Tae-chung of the PPD, the two opposition parties still need to narrow their differences over such issues as the leadership of the proposed unified party and the joint proposal for a revision of the National Assembly election law featuring the small constituency system.

Political observers say that the true picture of the proposed opposition merger is expected to become clearer in the next two or three days, depending on the outcome of the joint meeting of the preparatory committees.

After its national convention, the RDP adopted a resolution urging that the PPD retract a proposal for the joint leadership of the unified opposition party featuring Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung at the helm.

The resolution also renewed the party's call for Kim Tae-chung to step aside from the leadership of the proposed unified opposition party.

Meanwhile, PPD president Kim Tae-chung said before the party convention that the controversy over the proposed party leadership should not be an obstacle hindering the realization of the small constituency system and a unified opposition, clarifying that he is willing to withdraw the joint party leadership proposal under which he and Kim Yong-sam would be co-leaders.

The two Kims have been under sharp criticism for splitting the opposition vote and contributing to the ruling party's victory in the Dec. 16 presidential election last year. Kim Tae-chung left the RDP early last November to organize his own party and mount a bid for the presidency.

The two Kims had a combined total of 55 percent of the vote in the Dec. election, compared with 37 percent for ruling party candidate No Tae-u.

Kim Yong-sam resigned as president of the RDP on Feb. 8 in an effort to bring about a unified opposition and to also encourage Kim Tae-chung to step down as PPD president.

RDP, PPD Separately Agree

SK040143 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
4 Mar 88 pp 1, 4

[Text] The two major opposition parties formally resolved to merge in separate national conventions yesterday.

In the two conventions they resolved that the merger should be achieved at any cost for an opposition victory in the upcoming general elections.

Despite this formal action, it is still unclear whether they can really achieve integration because of their conflicting positions on key issues.

At the convention of the Reunification Democratic Party, some 850 delegates endorsed the three-point merger agreement reached between Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung Feb. 23.

But at the same time, they demanded that Kim Tae-chung retire to the second line of politics once the two parties merge.

They also urged that the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] immediately withdraw its proposal for the two Kims to jointly lead the new party.

While pressing for Kim Tae-chung's retirement, the RDP delayed a decision on presenting a joint revision draft to the parliamentary election law with the PPD.

Apparently reluctant to accept single-lawmaker constituencies, the party plans to decide on the issue at a full congress of lawmakers tomorrow.

The RDP convention approved formation of an organ to carry out the merger and left selection of its 150 members to the party leadership.

The PPD conference of some 1,000 national delegates also endorsed the merger agreement and committed its president, Kim Tae-chung, to select the 150 representatives who are to inaugurate the new party along with their RDP counterparts.

Before the convention, PPD spokesman An Tong-son said in a statement that the leadership issue and other matters of little importance should not hinder the planned merger and a joint adoption of the single-lawmaker election format.

He stressed a joint push for the format by an integrated opposition for an overwhelming victory in the general elections.

An's statement backed Kim Tae-chung's expression of willingness to renounce his proposal that he share the leadership of the new party with Kim Yong-sam at least until after the elections.

Kim told reporters before the convention that he believed the popular wish is for the two leaders with real power to handle the newly created party during the election period for an opposition victory.

But he clarified his position by saying that he would not let his proposal stand in the way of an opposition merger and the single-member election format.

Kim's intention to withdraw his controversial proposal clears one major obstacle to the merger of the RDP and PPD.

The two sides are expected to be able to compromise on this issue as the RDP appears ready to step back from its previous position that the new party be led by a single figure other than the two Kims.

But the overall prospects for a merger still remain dim because the RDP wants an unequivocal declaration from Kim Tae-chung that he will retire to a back seat after the merger.

On this point, Kim declined to give a clear answer at his meeting with reporters. Although he said he would bear all the sacrifices to realize the merger and implementation of the single-member election format, he refused to say if the sacrifices include his immediate retirement.

In connection with this, Kim Yong-sam said after the RDP convention that he has no intention to be an adviser to the new party, not to mention co-president.

Kim said he was surprised at Kim Tae-chung's co-presidency proposal.

The RDP's demand for Kim Tae-chung's retirement is designed to delay or reject its adoption of the single-lawmaker constituency format, according to political observers.

Meanwhile, negotiators of the two parties will meet today to settle the leadership issue. The PPD side is expected to notify negotiators from the RDP and the Hangyore Democratic Party of its final position.

'Survival' Motivates Negotiations

SK040211 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
4 Mar 88 p 2

[Text] The hitches in the negotiation of a merger of the two major opposition parties are due mainly to differences between Kim Yong-sam and Kim Tae-chung in their strategies for survival.

While Kim Yong-sam is apparently seeking his roll-back some years later for another chance to run for the presidency, the other Kim aims for immediate hegemony in the opposition after the April general elections.

When Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] resolved to push "co-leadership" of the two Kims in the projected unified opposition party, the RDP side was led to suspect the "genuine intentions" of the PPD president.

RDP lawmakers interpreted that particular suggestion of the PPD and its president Kim as designed to have him lead the opposition struggle after the general elections.

Even after the PPD withdraw its earlier decision to seek the co-leadership of the two Kims in a meeting of key posts-holders yesterday, the RDP pressed the PPD and its president Kim to declare he did not intend to take a starring role in the unified opposition party yet to be formed.

RDP spokesman Kim Tae-yong said, "Our party will adopt the small parliamentary district system as the official party line in a caucus tomorrow. But PPD president Kim should make it clear first that he will not seek the leadership of the unified party."

His remarks was interpreted as a threat to suspend the on-going negotiations on the merger of the two parties.

PPD president Kim refuses to give a clear-cut answer to the RDP demand.

The course of action the PPD president takes is certain to affect the prospects for the merger of the two parties, observers believe.

They suggest that the PPD president may have judged that it would be impossible for him to seek the presidency again in five years if he backs off from leadership now.

Kim Tae-chung, 65 in actual age, has run for the presidency twice but failed, they pointed out.

Therefore, the only remaining chance for the populist opposition leader will be the vote of confidence President No Tae-u will submit to after the Olympic Games. No promised the vote during his presidential campaign.

Kim Yong-sam, for his part, may think that he will have another chance to seek the opposition nomination for the presidency in five years if he succeeds in realizing the opposition integration under his initiative.

Kim's close aides said yesterday that the former RDP president would take a "hands off" attitude to party affairs from now on in order not to be politically damaged by possible internal disturbances.

Vice Ministerial Level Appointments Reported

SK041305 Seoul YONHAP in English
1254 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—The government Friday appointed Sin Tong-won, chief of the Foreign Ministry's Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, to be vice foreign minister and Vice Construction Minister Yi Hyong-ku to be vice finance minister.

Mun Hui-kap, vice economic planning minister, and five other vice ministers were retained.

In a reshuffle affecting 28 vice minister-level officials at 24 government ministries and agencies, the government also named So Chong-sin, chief of the Pusan district prosecutor's office, as vice justice minister and promoted Chang Pyong-kyu, director of the Education Ministry's Planning and Management Office, as vice education minister.

In a follow-up appointments of the Feb. 19 cabinet reshuffle, Ho Nam-hun, administrator of the Industrial Advancement Administration, was made vice trade and industry and Rep. Kang Yong-sik of the ruling Democratic Justice Party became vice culture and information minister.

Other appointments are:

- Yi Pyong-ki, chief of the Agricultural Products Inspection Center, as vice agriculture, forestry and fisheries minister
- Yi Chin-Sol, chairman of the Fair Trade Committee, as vice energy and resources minister
- Kim Han-chong, director of the Construction Ministry's Planning and Management office, as vice construction minister

- Yi Tu-ho, deputy administrator of the Environment Administration, as vice health and social affairs minister
- Yi Yong-chun, deputy chairman of the Federation of Korea Trade Unions, as vice labor minister
- Cho Kyong-sik, administrator of the Maritime and Port Administration, as vice transportation minister
- Sin Man-kyo, director of the Science and Technology Ministry's Planning and Management Office, as vice science and technology minister
- Song Han-ho, secretary general of the South-North (Korean) Dialogue Secretariat, as vice national unification minister
- So Yong-taek, second assistant finance minister, as administrator of the National Tax Administration
- Yi Tong-ho, first assistant finance minister, as administrator of the National Customs Administration
- Pak Chong-yun, deputy administrator of the Rural Development Administration, as administrator of the Rural Development Administration
- Yi Tong-pae, director of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry's Management and Planning Office, as administrator of the National Fisheries Administration
- Yim In-taek, second assistant trade and industry minister, as administrator of the Industrial Advancement Administration
- Pak Hong-sik, deputy administrator of the Patents Administration, as administrator of the Patents Administration
- Chin Nyom, assistant economic planning minister, as administrator of the Maritime and Port Administration.

Friday's reshuffle of the vice minister-level officials was the first major personnel change since the cabinet shakeup president No Tae-u conducted on Feb. 19. No's government was formally sworn in on Feb. 25, succeeding Chon Tu-hwan's administration.

A spokesman for Prime Minister Yi Hyon-chae said that the president fully respected respective minister's opinions in selecting vice ministers and administrators.

Personnel exchanges among government ministries and the promotion of inter-ministry cooperation was also considered in the reshuffle, the spokesman said.

DJP Chooses Small Constituency System

SK040717 Seoul YONHAP in English
0657 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—After days of bitter internal squabbling over the projected amendment of the National Assembly election law, South Korea's ruling party has reached a final decision to hold the parliamentary elections expected in mid-April under a small constituency system with one lawmaker to be elected from each constituency, it was learned Friday.

A highly placed source at the ruling Democratic Justice Party said the decision came after a high-level meeting Thursday of the party and government officials, including newly inaugurated President No Tae-u, DJP Chairman Chae Mun-sik and DJP secretary-general Sim Myong-po.

The source added that the meeting reaffirmed the party's position that the upcoming general elections should be held in a fair manner fully observing the popular will.

The government party is expected to finalize the decision as the official party policy at a March 7 meeting of the Central Executive Committee, the highest-level decision-making organ of the party. The DJP plan will be submitted to the extraordinary session of the National Assembly which opened March 2 for a seven-day session and is expected to be put to a vote on the closing day regardless of whether or not the opposition parties propose a unified revision bill.

Chae, the no. two official in the ruling party, announced his party's political timetable last Friday featuring the small constituency system in a move to respond to the agreement between the two leading opposition parties to achieve a merger and compete as a unified opposition against the ruling party in the parliamentary elections.

The DJP's proposal for the new National Assembly law sparked a severe backlash among lawmakers within the DJP, especially those from Seoul and large provincial cities that have traditionally been regarded as weak electoral areas for the governing party. The DJP originally advocated a system under which one to three lawmakers would be elected from each constituency.

Returning from his visit to Chongwadae, the Korean presidential residence, the DJP chairman said Thursday that possible negative responses against the decision expected to arise in Friday's general meeting of party lawmakers would only be treated as a possible matter for consideration, if any, in the decision-making process, hinting that the decision will hardly be subject to change.

Under the DJP's final plan, the membership of the new National Assembly would have a total of 298 seats, including 224 lawmakers to be chosen in a direct vote. The remaining 74 seats would be distributed among parties qualified for proportional representation in the unicameral house. According to a draft being prepared by the opposition camps, the number of constituencies is expected to reach well above the 298 seats planned by the DJP because of differences in the population of the small constituencies.

The current law of the 12th National Assembly provides that 184 representatives shall be elected through a popular vote, two each from 92 constituencies, to fill two-thirds of the 276-member National Assembly with the

remaining 92 seats to be distributed among parties winning five seats or more in the direct elections. Sixty-one or two-thirds of the 92 proportional seats are allotted to the winning party.

Meanwhile, opposition leader Kim Tae-chung of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] welcomed the DJP's decision to hold the new National Assembly elections using the small one-member constituency, describing it as a victory of the popular will along with the direct presidential election last year.

Kim Tae-chung said he is aware that opposition candidates running for seats in agricultural and fishing regions under the new system are expected to face difficulty in their campaigns against DJP candidates. He also said he has consistently advocated the small constituency system because the transition of power may only occur after the implementation of a system under which one representative would be elected from each district with local autonomy to follow. The voter turnout in rural areas has traditionally been in the ruling party's favor in past elections.

Kim is faced with mounting pressure to step down as president of the PPD as a precondition for the proposed merger between the PPD and the Reunification Democratic Party, controlled by rival opposition leader Kim Yong-sam.

PKC Pledges Support for Seoul Olympics

SK040227 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
4 Mar 88 p 1

[By Pyon Hong-chin of THE KOREA TIMES Los Angeles Bureau]

[Text] Los Angeles—Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xue-qian pledged Wednesday that his country will do its utmost to make the Seoul Olympics a success.

He revealed that detailed measures for the successful Summer Olympics will be discussed during his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on Monday, March 7.

Wu made the remarks in an interview with THE KOREA TIMES at the Biltmore Hotel here during a reception on the eve of the opening of the Chinese consulate general in Los Angeles.

Wu said, "The People's Republic of China will dispatch the largest delegation of athletes to the Seoul Olympiad since it has adopted an open-door policy."

He added that for the safety of China's athletics team and a successful participation in the Olympics, China will hold close consultations with the United States.

Chinese Ambassador to the United States Han Xu who accompanied Wu said, commenting on the prospects for the improvement of relations between Korea and China, "We understand the policy of the new leader (President No Tae-u) to promote ties with our country."

He went on to say that his understanding was that a proposal for cultural exchanges had been made by Korea.

Han noted that the two countries will soon be able to enjoy better relations. But he did not elaborate as to when and how the relations can be improved, only saying that one should closely watch the Seoul Olympics to see how things develop.

In a separate interview, new Chinese Consul General to Los Angeles Ma Yuzhen said that the Chinese consulate general will play a major role in publicizing the Chinese open-door policy to the United States.

Pointing out that the consulate general of China is located near the Koreatown here, he added that he will give positive support to Korean-Americans for their trade with China.

Purchasing Mission To Be Sent to U.S.

SK040103 Seoul YONHAP in English
0047 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea will send a large-scale purchasing mission to the United States in May, in an effort to ease trade frictions between the two countries, a government official said Friday.

The official said Nam Tock-u, president of the Korea Foreign Trade Association, will head the buying mission which will comprise about 30 business leaders.

The mission is intended to ease trade disputes with the United States by reducing Korea's trade surplus with the U.S., Korea's largest trading partner. mission members will tour the United States for about 15 days and purchase various goods, the official said.

The mission's itinerary has not yet been determined, he added.

Korea has been under strong U.S. pressure to open its markets wider to U.S. goods and services. Korea posted a trade surplus of 7.3 billion U.S. dollars with the United States in 1986 and the surplus rose to almost 10 billion dollars last year.

Meanwhile, the Trade and Industry Ministry is considering holding the 13th Korean-U.S. trade ministers' meeting in Washington when the Korean trade mission is in America, the official said.

Overseas Aid To Triple in 1988

SK040848 Seoul YONHAP in English
0839 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—Peru and six other developing countries have asked South Korea for loans this year totaling 83 million U.S. dollars, government sources said Friday.

The sources said Peru, Liberia, Ghana, Comoros, Jordan, Bangladesh and Colombia have requested loans from the Korean Government's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

For the first time in its history, South Korea loaned money to foreign nations last year providing 23 million dollars to Nigeria and Indonesia from the fund.

Nigeria borrowed 10 million dollars for its project to modernize railroad cars and Indonesia obtained 13 million dollars for a road construction project.

The sources said Peru asked for 9.8 million dollars to buy eight fishing vessels built in Korea, while Liberia sought 7 million dollars for a road construction project, and Ghana requested a loan of 5.5 million dollars to purchase four Korean-made railway locomotives.

Comoros requested 3.05 million dollars to buy a Korean-built fishing vessel, Jordan asked for 8 million dollars to modernize its irrigation facilities, Bangladesh requested 15 million dollars for a bridge construction project, and Colombia sought 35 million dollars to build a repair dock.

Meanwhile, the government plans to increase its overseas economic cooperation fund to 90 billion won (some 118.4 million U.S. dollars) from the 30 billion won secured as of the end of last year.

Foreign-Flag Shipping to China To Be Limited

SK040137 Seoul YONHAP in English
0112 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea plans to prevent major foreign shipping companies from offering freighter services beyond its ports to mainland China until its national flag-carriers begin regular services to Chinese ports.

Korea will, however, allow small companies serving Southeast Asian freighter lines to go beyond Korean ports to China.

Officials at the Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) said Friday that due to the recent moves between China and South Korea for a further expansion of bilateral trade, most of the major foreign shipping companies serving Korean ports have sent agents to Korea in an effort to obtain rights to go beyond Korean ports to China.

The officials said the KMPA hopes to award national flag-carriers rather than foreign carriers the right to offer freighter services beyond Korean ports to China.

Foreign shipping companies must obtain the KMPA's approval when they seek to extend their services beyond Korean ports.

Meanwhile, South Korean freighters have already begun carrying export and import cargoes between South Korea and China via Hong Kong and Japanese ports.

Drug Companies Exploring Investment in PRC
SK040703 Seoul YONHAP in English
0646 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea's pharmaceutical businesses are pushing ahead with plant exports to China and other Asian nations as well as joint ventures with firms in those countries, officials at the Health and Social Affairs Ministry said Friday.

The officials said that Green Cross Medical Corporation is contacting Chinese businesses in order to invest 1 million U.S. dollars in the construction of a plasma fraction plant in China and to supply basic materials, technology and machinery to the plant.

Kwang-Dong Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. is also pushing ahead with the establishment of a joint venture for pharmaceutical production in China, according to the officials.

Besides China, South Korean pharmaceutical concerns are also considering ways to set up joint ventures in Indonesia, Pakistan and other nations and also to begin plant exports to those countries.

Sung-Do Pharmaceutical Co. is holding discussions with Pakistani and Bangladeshi businessmen on exports of machinery, basic materials and technology to the two Asian nations in order to build a plant for antipyretic and analgesic production.

Shin-Poong Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. has decided to construct a joint-venture plant in Sudan for the production of pharmaceuticals and has applied to the Bank of Korea for authorization of an overseas investment worth 330,000 dollars to carry out the project.

Cheil Sugar Co., Ltd. was contacted by an Indonesian business to build a plant in the southeast Asian country for the production of a hepatitis vaccine.

Officials said the ministry will encourage Korean businesses to make more inroads in overseas markets by increasing the number of market-exploration missions abroad by private businessmen and ministry officials and also to step up barter trade with countries with which Seoul does yet have diplomatic ties.

Government Said To Study Fishing Near PRC
SK040946 Seoul YONHAP in English
0938 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Seoul, March 4 (YONHAP)—South Korea is carefully studying whether to allow its fishermen more access to the open sea closer to China, it was reported Friday.

Quoting the National Fisheries Administration, the TONG-A ILBO said the government is considering either the abolishment of the voluntary fishing control line in Korea's West Sea or moving the line 10 miles closer to China.

A spokesman for the administration, however, denied the report as groundless.

The newspaper reported that consultations to extend the line are under way among relevant government agencies including the foreign, home and defense ministries.

Currently, the Korean Government restricts Korean fishing vessels from operating beyond the line, located 40 miles east of the Japan-China fishing agreement line.

TONG-A also said that the government is negotiating on the matter with China via a third country. Seoul and Beijing do not have diplomatic relations.

The fishing control line in the West Sea was determined in August 1976 to ensure safe fishing for Korean fishing vessels. The line was first drawn 30 miles east of the Japan-China fisheries agreement line. It was adjusted to 50 miles east of the Japan-China line in July 1979 and was readjusted to 40 miles east of the line in October 1985 thanks to the improved relations between South Korea and China.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Polish Foreign Minister Arrives 4 March
BK040734 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0720 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Polish Foreign Minister Marian Orzechowski arrived here Friday for a 3-day official visit to Malaysia accompanied by his wife.

Saturday, he is scheduled to call on Foreign Minister Haji Abu Hassan Omar followed by a plenary meeting.

He is also expected to call on Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed.

News Services Distribution Agreement Renewed
BK040353 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0333 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 4 (BERNAMA)—BERNAMA and REUTERS Friday renewed their agreement for distribution of REUTERS news, news pictures and information products in Malaysia for another three-year term.

The renewal agreement was signed here by BERNAMA General Manager Mohamed Ali Ismail and REUTERS Manager for Singapore and South Asia William O'Shea.

Mohamed Ali said the renewal provided the framework for a long period of cooperation between the two organizations.

The agreement was first signed in 1984 and the renewal included improved terms, he added.

Under this agreement, REUTERS will continue to provide its range of financial information and media products to subscribers in Malaysia. It also includes the distribution of REUTERS news pictures through BERNAMA.

Briefs

Outgoing Indonesian Ambassador

Outgoing Indonesian Ambassador to Malaysia Himawan Sutanto called on Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat in Kuala Lumpur today. During the meeting, they exchanged views on ways to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of information. [Summary] *[Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 3 Mar 88 BK]*

Singapore

Malaysian Defense Chief Visits 3 March
BK031145 Singapore Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The Malaysian Armed Forces chief of defense force, General Tan Sri Datuk Hashim Mohamed Ali, arrived in Singapore this afternoon for a 3-day official visit. He was invited by the Singapore Armed Forces chief of the General Staff, Major General Winston Choo.

Gen Tan Sri Datuk Hashim and his wife were received at Paya Lebar Airport by Gen Choo and Mrs Choo. There was a special guard of honor mounted by the three services of the SAF [Singapore Armed Forces]. The Malaysian Armed Forces chief later called on the prime minister at the Istana [Palace]. Tomorrow he will call on the first deputy prime minister and defense minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Statement on Hun Sen Talks Reported
BK031116 Hanoi International Service
in English 1000 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk said he will remain temporarily in his post as president of the so-called Democratic Kampuchea.

Explaining his change of mind, Sihanouk wrote the French news agency AFP on 29 February saying that was because he will meet Mr Hun Sen in Fer-en-Tardenois, France, for the third round of talks expected to be held in November or December this year.

Hun Sen Visits Kompong Cham Province
BK040552 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0406 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Phnom Penh, 4 Mar (SPK)—Hun Sen, member of the Political Bureau of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, visited people in Kompong Cham Province, about 100 km northeast of Phnom Penh, from 26 February to 3 March.

At the provincial recapitulative meeting, Chairman Hun Sen highly appreciated the all-round achievement of the people in Kompong Cham during the past 2 years. He visited the districts of Ponhea Krek, Tbong Khmum, Kaoh Sotin, Prey Chhor, Cheung Prey, and Batheay.

He informed the people in Kompong Cham of the results of his talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk, calling them the first successes of the national reconciliation process and an important step toward a political solution to the Cambodian problem.

He reiterated the PRK Government's desire to reach an equitable political solution to the Cambodian problem based on the elimination of the Pol Pot genocidal clique politically as well as militarily and the guarantee of the Cambodian people's vital interests.

Heng Samrin Greets MPR's Batmonh on Birthday
*BK040608 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0413 GMT
4 Mar 88*

[Text] Phnom Penh, 4 Mar (SPK)—Heng Samrin, general secretary of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the PRK Council of State, recently sent his warm congratulations to Jambyn Batmonh, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee and chairman of the People's Great Hural Presidium of the Mongolian People's Republic, on his 62d birthday.

The Cambodian leader said in his message:

"We highly appreciate your precious contribution to the development and consolidation of relations between our two parties, government, and people based on Marxist-Leninist principles and proletarian internationalism."

The Cambodian leader wished the Mongolian counterpart good health and new successes in his noble task for the prosperity of the fraternal Mongolian people, peace, and socialism.

PRACHEACHON on Localities Consolidation
*BK031158 Phnom Penh Domestic Service
in Cambodian 2300 GMT 2 Mar 88*

[PRACHEACHON editorial: "Actively Implement the Resolutions of the Sixth Party Central Committee Session"; no date given]

[Text] The localities are where the people are assembled to directly implement all policies and lines of the party and state; they are the main sources of all revolutionary forces, the cells of the society ensuring the everlasting quality of the revolutionary regime and state power. The leading views and philosophy of our party expound that the localities are a matter of life or death for the revolution, and the party considers the localities the major battlefield.

Immediately after the fatherland was liberated from the genocidal regime, our party gave high priority to the localities, suggesting many targets and measures, gradually and simultaneously building all the organizational systems in the localities, and constantly continuing to strengthen them to bring them real change and growth.

During the past 2 years, in particular, while implementing the spirit of the resolutions of the Fifth Party Congress and of the second party plenum, the institutions at the central as well as provincial, municipal, and district levels have mobilized thousands of cadres and

organized them into work groups assigned to go down to the bases to consolidate weak and important localities for the dual purpose of attacking the enemies and arousing the masses. The work groups fought to overcome all obstacles and difficulties, firmly taking control of the people and the villages and communes.

The central ministries, such as the National Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Trade, Education, Health, and Finance Ministries, and the Organization and Propaganda and Education Commissions diligently worked out plans and set up leading committees for local consolidation, actively contributing to the building and consolidation of villages and communes. In the provinces, cities, and districts, party committees and leading committees for local consolidation shared duty and responsibility for a number of areas to be consolidated, and worked actively and directly in the localities.

Through specific actions in the past 2 years, most of the villages and communes have undergone changes and become more developed than before; the masses have been more widely awakened to the call of the nation, carrying out their duty as citizens and fulfilling their obligation toward the state; production has increased fairly, and the livelihood of the people has gradually stabilized; the militia and police forces have been able to defend the localities unaided and have efficiently, effectively, and actively uprooted the enemy plants; recruitment work and the implementation of the rear-line policy have been successfully carried out; the movement to sell foodstuffs to the state, patriotic contributions, and the fulfillment of the border defense network building task have met the targets; and the foundations of the party, state power, and mass organizations have been further strengthened, ensuring the sense of leadership of the party and enhancing the faith of the people in party leadership.

However, there are still some weak localities that have not yet been consolidated or have not been evenly consolidated and localities where revolutionary organizations have not yet been fully established. Some localities have already been endowed with all the organizations, but their leadership and management capabilities are not yet up to par and they have yet to clearly grasp their role and duty, lacking the ability to conduct activities effectively. As a result, they still fail to proselytize the masses and enable the people to develop their right of mastery of the localities. The living conditions of our people remain filled with hardship, both material and spiritual. Militia and police forces have not yet been correctly organized, as expected. At the same time, the spirit and will to fight and win have not been constantly heightened. At times, the militia and police forces are careless and lack vigilance, providing the enemy with an opportunity to undermine us.

All of this occurred because inadequate attention was given to building and consolidating the localities in a number of places; these places did not consider building

and consolidating the localities a principal task; the central ministries and offices had a low opinion of these tasks; a number of ministries had worked out plans, but the plans were too general; the propagation of guidance for and counseling on the plans by these institutions for their counterparts at provincial and district levels to work out the latter's plans for the consolidation of localities were not well done; some institutions at provincial and district levels were not informed of changes and did not clearly understand the implementation of the Central Committee's resolutions; the party committees and leading committees for local consolidation in the provinces and cities and a number of district party committees, in general, did not implement well [words indistinct], rarely going down to the localities and failing to present specific measures to resolve problems in the villages and communes or resolving the problems inefficiently; a number of work groups assigned to consolidate communes and villages could not implement their own tasks successfully; and the care provided for cadres of provincial and district work groups at a number of places was not adequate.

In the current revolutionary situation, in which our country has entered the fighting-while-negotiating phase, our struggle with the enemies continues to be arduous, resolute, and complex. Though they have suffered one serious defeat after another and have been driven to weakness and deterioration, the enemies remain stubborn and refuse to give up their design to sabotage our country's revolution. They seek, by any means, to grab and control villages and communes, using them as support bases to carry on their activities against the revolution in a move toward overturning our PRK.

In 1988, building and consolidating the localities is a major task. The (recent) sixth party Central Committee session considered the building and consolidation of villages, communes, units, and Armed Forces bases to be the major task in 1988. It is imperative to concentrate efforts on, pay attention to, and continue promoting the implementation of the resolutions of the fifth party Central Committee session on building and consolidating villages and communes in order to strengthen and develop mastery of the revolution in the countryside. For the immediate future, it is imperative to mobilize forces to consolidate villages and communes at important points and in important places. We must gradually pay vigorous attention to building strong, real revolutionary forces, first of all building party chapters, core groups, state power, mass organizations, and the ranks of principal cadres; teaching them to act creatively according to their role; seeing to it that they are strong enough to provide leadership, to resolve all urgent necessary demands in the material and spiritual lives of the people, to control the people [words indistinct], and to arouse the people to participate in the tri-revolutionary movement [words indistinct]; and striving hard to bring specific, gradual changes to these villages and communes in major fields, especially in attacking the enemies,

unmasking enemy agents who have been planted here, proselytizing the misled, controlling the returnees, and cutting off the enemies from their local supply and recruitment sources.

In building and consolidating the localities, it is imperative to pay attention to training principal cadres at district levels and in the localities themselves. First, train them so that they are able to conduct (?long-term) activities. At the same time, increase cooperation with the forces in the localities and enhance the leadership of the provincial, municipal, and district party committees in closely monitoring and inspecting the activities, and constantly reward and encourage work groups assigned to the localities, especially in areas with many difficulties and complexities. It is imperative to pay attention to increasing the number of cadres for the provinces in the northeastern region. Moreover, pay attention to consolidating localities [words indistinct] rubber plantations, communications, transport, factories, enterprises, industry, schools, and hospitals so that these localities are strong enough to fulfill their role successfully.

The sixth party Central Committee session stressed that it is imperative to consider the building and consolidation of the localities, villages, communes, and local units of the Armed Forces as the major task in 1988. For this reason, all levels, sectors, cadres, and party members must clearly grasp their own duty toward the localities. Everything must be directed toward the localities!

Laos

Kaysone Phomvihan in SRV for Medical Tests
BK040930 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Hanoi, March 4 (AFP)—Laotian leader Kaysone Phomvihan is in Hanoi for medical tests, a Vietnamese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Mr. Kaysone, premier and secretary-general of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, arrived here Wednesday [2 March] on a private flight and was welcomed by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach, said the spokesman, Trinh Xuan Lang.

Mr. Lang declined to give details on what kind of medical tests Mr. Kaysone, 67, would undergo. He only said that the Laotian leader had already been to Hanoi "several times" for such tests.

Report on Border Talks in Bangkok 3 March
BK040044 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Our radio correspondent, accompanying the Lao Government delegation led by Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit to Bangkok, sent a report saying that yesterday [3 March] the Lao delegation held two rounds

of talks on the Lao-Thai border dispute with the Thai Government delegation headed by M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi at the Thai Foreign Ministry.

The first round of talks started at 1130 and lasted 1 hour. The second began at 1430 and ended at 1600.

The meeting was held in a frank, good neighborly and brotherly manner, and it proceeded in a good, cordial atmosphere.

During the first round, the Lao side spelled out its general view on the dialogue so as to lay down the foundation for the consultation and discussion regarding the legal evidence. During the second round, the Lao side proposed that both sides produce and discuss the legal evidence they have. Both sides raised many questions during the talks. They agreed to hold the third round today [4 March] at 0900.

Further on Thai-Lao Talks

BK040935 Vientiane KPL in English
0905 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 4 (KPL)—Lao and Thai governmental delegations had two rounds of talks on March 3 in Bangkok, Thailand to seek peaceful solution to the border dispute in Boten District, Lao Sayaboury Province and Chat Trakan District, Thai Phitsanulok Province.

The Lao delegation was led Major General [rank as received] Thonglai Kommasit and the Thai one was headed by Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, permanent secretary at the Thai Foreign Ministry.

Both morning and afternoon sessions proceeded in a good atmosphere of cordiality, openness and brotherly ties.

At the first round of talks, the Lao Government delegation gave legal principled stand to be considered at the negotiations.

At the second round of talks, the Lao side requested the Thai delegation to provide legal proofs to be discussed at the talks. The Lao side also presented its points.

The third round of talks is scheduled to start today at 0900 hrs.

Arriving at Don Muang Airport, in Bangkok, the Lao delegation was met by Kasemsamoson Kasemsi.

Khamphan Simmalavong and Le Mai, respectively ambassadors of Laos and Vietnam, were also present at the airport to welcome the Lao delegation.

PASASON Comments

BK031127 Vientiane KPL in English
0903 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 3 (OANA-KPL)—PASASON's leading article today, while wishing the Bangkok talks between the Lao and Thai governmental delegations successes, says that the business of the meeting should be conducted on the basis of equality, sincerity, justice and in the interests of good neighbourliness befitting people of the same kinship.

"The core of the foreign policy of the Lao PDR is that of independence, peace and friendship and from such premise the Lao Government is in favour of the settlement of conflict—whether regional or international, by peaceful means," points out the paper.

The case in point, says PASASON, is the constant adherence to the long-standing policy of friendship in favour of the just interests of both Lao and Thai peoples and for peace, security, friendship and cooperation among nations in the region. The paper adds in this connection that ever since the problem started, the Lao side has tried its best to find a solution to the border dispute by negotiations as spelled out in the 1979 joint communiques reached between the two governments.

The paper highly values the successful talks between the two countries' military delegations which resulted in a cease-fire, disengagement of both troops, the formation of a joint-military commission to supervise the agreement—all of which have helped pave the way for the Lao-Thai governmental talks due to be held in Bangkok today.

The paper attributes the positive development to efforts of both sides. It adds that the Lao and Thai people as well as those justice-loving world people are watching the Bangkok talks, and understandably hope that more success will be scored.

However, wanting to have success, both sides at the negotiations must manifest their sincerity on the basis of equality and for the interests of the two nations. At the same time, they must respect the 1907 France-Siamese Treaty and the related maps even though there might be numerous obstacles lying ahead, points out PASASON, the maxim "where there is a will, there is a way" no doubt both sides can overcome all the problems. [sentence as received]

On the other hand, the paper observes, both people should raise vigilance against attempts of some bad elements in Thailand. These include some former politicians and military men who evilly incited "Thai troops to cross the Mekong and reduce Vientiane to ashes...and sing provocative song whose essence arrogantly claims Thailand's ownership over the Lao Sayaboury Province."

The paper concludes that the good will and sincerity of the Lao people which are being brought forth to the Bangkok talks, will be positively responded to by the Thai side. It reminds the readers of the previous pledges made by the leaders of the military delegations that the Lao and Thai brothers shall no more lose their blood through futile armed squabbles, no one shall be able to sever the Lao-Thai relations with sword, and all problems at all levels can be solved through confidence, brotherly love, and good will...." [End quote as received]

Lao Leaders Receive EEC Representative

BK031257 Vientiane KPL in English
0920 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 3 (OANA-KPL)—Phoun Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister for foreign affairs, and Saly Vongkhamso, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, chairman of the State Planning Committee, on March 2, respectively received the non-residential head of the EEC for Southeast Asia, Albert Meas.

Questions on the widening of economic relations between Laos and the EEC on the basis of mutual interests were discussed at these meetings.

The Lao leaders thanked the EEC for its help and wished him success in the fulfillment of his mission for further widening of cooperation and assistance between the two sides.

Cooperation With CEMA Members Expanded

BK040827 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Feature: "The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and the Lao People's Democratic Republic"]

[Text] The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance is an international organization which deals with and coordinates cooperation among different establishments including external trade, finance, economy, and industries of socialist countries. The LPDR has joined this organization as a new observer. Since 1976, the council's member states have acquired enormous economic strength and are capable of providing lessons and assistance for Laos in terms of materials and oil fuel. They send specialists to work in Laos. The assistance from these fraternal countries can be regarded as the development of, and one of the factors favorable to Laos. Laos also had the honor to send a delegation to participate in the council's 43d conference, which it regarded as a meaningful event.

During the past years, Lao-Soviet and Soviet-Lao cooperation has been executed most effectively. The Soviet Union provided vehicles of different types as well as spare parts, tools, and raw materials for industrial development in Laos. In return, Laos sent wood products and lead from Phon Tiou mine in Khammoune Province to

the Soviet Union. Although the council's member countries are in Europe which is very far away, they have been very helpful to Laos. Touching on industrial cooperation, the People's Republic of Bulgaria is helping Laos construct a hydroelectric dam, develop wood exploitation, and build a perfume factory from now to 1990. The GDR has also agreed to give a loan to Laos for purchasing machines and vehicles for road construction. Hungary also helped Laos expand agroindustry and develop animal raising cooperatives, industries, and factories in connection with coffee cultivation. During the past years, cooperation between the People's Republic of Hungary and the LPDR has intensified in such fields as mineralogy. The countries in the socialist bloc which have already established cooperation with Laos are the Soviet Union in the development of industries, lead mines and wood exploitation; Germany in coffee cultivation; Hungary and Cuba in animal husbandry; the CSSR in pig raising, and Mongolia in sheep raising. Moreover, there are excellent conditions for broadening and expanding cooperation between the council's member countries and the LPDR. The exchange of goods on the basis of mutual interest can be made at the initial stage. Certainly, cooperation among socialist fraternal countries and CEMA members in the future will be further expanded, and this is the path that our country must walk toward prosperity and the well-being of the people.

Defense Minister Greets GDR Counterpart

BK031153 Vientiane KPL in English
0915 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] Vientiane, March 3 (KPL)—General Khamtai Siphandon, minister of defence, on March 1 sent a telegramme of greetings to his GDR counterpart, General Heinz Kessler, to hail the 32nd founding anniversary of the National Army of the GDR.

Having conveyed his best wishes to the GDR defence minister and rank-and-file of the GDR Army, the telegramme commended the achievements of the GDR National Army in its noble duty of safeguarding a socialist outpost and enhancing its combat capacity.

Assessing the recent removal of medium-range missiles jointly carried out by GDR and Soviet armies, the telegramme qualified such event as not only a demonstration of the GDR's good will and aspiration for peace, but also shows the constant development and strength of the National Army of the GDR, thus contributing to the safeguarding of peace and security in Europe and in the world.

"The Lao People's Army and people are very glad and welcome the achievements and victories scored by the Army and people of the GDR, and consider them as our own. On this occasion, we would like to express our profound thanks to the party, government, people and

the National Army of the GDR for their constant assistance and help rendered to the Lao revolution and the LPA," reads the telegramme.

In the conclusion, the telegramme wished for further strengthening of fraternal relations of friendship, militant solidarity and all-round cooperation between the armies and peoples of the two countries, and wished the GDR Army more successes in consolidating its might and in materialising the resolution of the 11th Congress of SED [Socialist Unity Party of Germany].

Philippines

Senate 'Likely' to Vote Against U.S. Bases
HK041413 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 4 Mar 88 p 4

[By Denis Murphy]

[Text] The Philippine Senate will most likely decide against the presence of American military bases in the country, if the issue ever comes to a vote, said Sen. Wigberto Tanada.

Son of prominent nationalist Lorenzo Tanada, the senator said he based his judgment on the fact that 10 of the Senate's 24 members co-sponsored his bill to keep nuclear weapons out of the country, and others told him privately they would vote in favor of it.

The bill is aimed principally at the American air base at Clark Field and naval base at Subic Bay where, according to observers, such weapons are stored.

"If there is a Senate vote, it will go against the bases," the senator said at a press conference marking the first death anniversary of former Sen. Jose W. Diokno.

Members of the Jose W. Diokno Foundation who organized the press conference said in an open letter to President Corazon Aquino that the "one vital lesson" Filipinos should understand about the bases is that "they are a constant invitation to U.S. intervention in our internal and external affairs.

"As long as that interventionism persists, political and economic instability will continue to bound us. No administration can ever be immune from it and its destabilizing consequences."

The foundation asked Mrs Aquino to declare that "the bases will not be renewed beyond the scheduled date of expiry in 1991."

So far the President says she is "keeping her options open."

Many priests and sisters were at the conference. Earlier they had attended a mass for Diokno concelebrated by four bishops, including Bishops Antonio Fortich of Bacolod and Julio Labayen of Infanta.

The bases, according to the foundation letter, represent America's vital interest in the country and are the main reason America intervenes here. America must guarantee the security of the bases, and that Philippine policies serve American interest here.

Economist Alejandro Lichauco, a foundation executive committee member, says the U.S. Embassy in Manila has launched a massive public relations drive aimed at convincing Filipinos the bases are good for the economy.

"Money is their big issue," he said.

The foundation says the bases are a question of national sovereignty, and that no economic benefits can make up for lost sovereignty.

Lichauco added the presence of American bases with offensive capability ensures the country will be attacked by America's enemies in time of war. Heads of the ASEAN nations who met here in December refused to make a statement for or against the retention of the bases.

The Philippine Congress will decide if the bases stay or not, but it may decide to call a referendum before 1991.

The bases cover about 65,000 hectares, and employ 68,000 Filipinos, half as full time workers, the rest on a part time basis.

They are the largest U.S. bases outside of the United States, and control America's defenses from the Indian Ocean to Japan and most of the Pacific.

Currently the U.S. gives the Philippines about \$200 million a year for the bases.

"Most Filipinos don't worry about the bases one way or another," a young social worker at the press conference said. "People worry more about jobs, land reform, peace. But maybe the bases are the real problem."

U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Platt in a recent interview said he believes the sovereignty issue is "an emotional one."

"We have bases in Germany, Japan, Britain and elsewhere and there is no question of sovereignty."

Commentators here say the countries mentioned are stable, developed democracies and so able to deal with American intervention. The Philippines which is poor and unstable politically is "vulnerable to intervention."

Column Sees Potential for Using U.S. Bases
HK040821 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 4 Mar 88 p 4

["Chaff from the Grain" Column by Hector R.R. Villanueva: "Will the Americans Leave?"]

[Text] No way except by force majeure, and the time, though imminent, has not come.

Thus, the United States finds itself in a dilemma.

On their own volition, Americans will not withdraw from the Philippines and close down the military bases, especially at a time when the country is in a precarious political situation.

Moreover, they feel protective of President Aquino and our nascent democracy against the dangers of international communism.

The quandary arises from the Americans' feigned inability to understand why Filipinos would want to "extort" exorbitant rentals for the use of the bases when they exist for their protection.

In fact, in other countries like Japan, the host country contributes to the upkeep of the American bases.

For the Americans, this seeming ingratitude of Filipinos is incomprehensible.

The fact of the matter, of course, is that the United States needs the bases more than we do and we need the United States more than she needs us.

Nonetheless, the issue of foreign military bases must be viewed in the context of changing global alliances and economic structural changes.

For openers, Gen. Shigeto Nagaro member of the House of Councillors of the Japanese Diet and former chief of staff of the Japanese Ground Self Defense Forces, has hinted, obviously with official clearance, that Japan is seriously "studying the possibility of Japan contributing to the compensation for U.S. bases because Asia needs the military installations in the Philippines." There is more than meets the eye here.

Second, when recent visitor U.S. Assistant Defense Secretary Richard Armitage reiterated for the umpteenth time that President Corazon Aquino has full and unqualified support of the U.S. government, it means that the United States is extremely worried and will be keeping its options open. Further, the United States economy is in difficulty because of a huge budget deficit that calls for reduced defense spending and lower imports.

Third, undaunted by the probability of the bases agreement being terminated, U.S. authorities are nonetheless expanding the infrastructures and housing facilities

within the Clark and Subic bases, evidently preparing for expanded activities or consolidating defensive plans, especially the safety of their dependents.

Thus, from the perspective of Filipinos generally, the United States must pay rental for the use of the bases since the military facilities in the Philippines exist primarily to protect the commercial and maritime interests of Japan and the United States.

The Philippines constitutes a vital link in the defense perimeter chain that extends from the Strait of Hormuz, Indian Ocean, to the Malacca choke points and all the way to Japan.

It is Japanese and American economic interests and the perceived threat from Soviet Russia that make the strategic locations of Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base so vital.

The other perspective, which makes U.S. orthodox thinkers nervous, is the rapid progress of communist-led insurgency in the Philippines, which is generally related to economic underdevelopment and widespread poverty.

While admittedly the Aquino administration has had to pick up the pieces from the devastation left behind by the previous regime, this current government in the last two years has had lackluster success in economic recovery.

The major consequence has been the continuing attraction of communism as an alternative ideology.

Hence, recent developments in the Philippines have become too parochial in scope in view of the military detente between the United States and Soviet Russia as well as the ideological modus vivendi between the two superpowers.

Moreover, the global economy is rapidly changing in character, direction and power centers.

Whereas, in the early fifties, the East-West conflict meant the United States and Western Europe versus Soviet Russia and Eastern Europe, the East-West configuration today means the United States, Western Europe and Russia, on the one hand, and India-China-the two Koreas and Japan, on the other. This is what the Pacific Century is all about.

In other words, the global terms of trade, financial centers, market concentration, wealth, financial intermediation and growth potentials are shifting from the West to the East.

It is in this context that the Philippines must view its comparative advantages. The trivial issues of bases rentals and jurisdiction pale in comparison to the potentials of alternative uses of the bases in preparation for the advent of the Pacific Century.

That's the name of the game.

Soviet Official Denies CPP-NPA, MNLF Links
HK041255 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
1000 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] A top Soviet Embassy official denied allegations that the Soviets have been supporting the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA. In a press briefing held today at the USSR Cultural Office in Vito Cruz, Manila, Minister Counsellor Alexander Loshchinko said that they also do not have any kind of links with the MNLF. Loshchinko explained that it is not the Soviet Union's practice to meddle with the internal problems of other countries. He said there is no truth to the accusation that his government has been providing arms and money to the local communist rebels.

Aquino Also Denies Reports
HK031059 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1000 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] President Aquino has denied reports that the MNLF is receiving support from the Soviet government. The president said she has not received any such reports. Previously, a local newspaper published an item saying that Ambassador Alex Melchor had admitted that the Soviet government is supporting the Muslim rebels. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus also denied the same report when interviewed by newsmen.

[Manglapus recording indistinct]

Vietnam, Red Army Said 'Aiding' Communists
HK040813 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 4 Mar 88 p 7

[Text] Two right-wing groups claimed yesterday that local communist guerrillas are getting material and financial support from foreign-based communist organizations.

The first group, a 29-man Japanese business delegation invited by the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] to lecture on communism, claimed that local rebels have "links" with the Japanese terror squad, the Japanese Red Army [JRA].

The second group, a Makati-based anti-communist organization, claimed that local guerrillas got fresh military supplies from Vietnam last month. The arms and other military supplies were reportedly landed in a remote coastal town in Quezon.

The revelations made by the two anti-communist groups came a day after Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos hinted that local guerrillas were getting "support" from communist parties abroad.

In a press briefing in Camp Aguinaldo late yesterday afternoon, Minoru Agata, president of the Dainippon Shukohkai, and Kyokuto Yoshitani, chairman of the Japanese publication MONTHLY FUJI, said "it is probable that the Japanese Red Army have inter-relation with local rebels."

The Japanese businessmen said they were not in a position to officially confirm reports on the support given by the JRA to the local rebels, but claimed the JRA was using a third party to channel funds.

The Japanese also mentioned about a student movement affiliated with the Japanese Communist Party which they claimed was being used to channel funds to foreign revolutionaries, including rebels in the Philippines.

The Japanese businessmen said the Philippines is an ideal operational base for JRA terrorists where they can recruit, train and export revolutionaries, particularly in the Middle East.

The Japanese delegation said the local military must use force to counter the terror tactics of the local rebels.

They strongly endorsed the "Indonesian experience" which saw the mass killings of suspected communist members.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the local anti-communist organization, Eric San Juan, claimed the rebels got another batch of arms shipment from foreign counterparts.

San Juan said he got intelligence reports that the arms, shipped through Vietnam, were landed in Quezon last month. He said this could be the second arms landing incident in Quezon since September last year when the military monitored an unusual flight of a white helicopter in the rebel-infested town of Mulanay in the Bondoc peninsula.

The following month, a naval intelligence report said two Caucasians, carrying two .60 caliber light machineguns, were monitored patrolling with local rebels also in Mulanay town.

The military said security measures were tightened in all ports of entry in Luzon and Mindanao where there were reports on rampant cases of smuggling, including arms and ammunitions.

The military said the allegations made by the two independent anti-communist groups will have to be verified thoroughly before they could make any specific announcements.

The military said, there had been previous reports on arms landing in some areas in Quezon, Bicol, Palawan, Mindoro, Surigao and Jolo provinces but most of the reports were unconfirmed or were false alarms.

Aquino Speaks to Elected Local Officials

*HK041331 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in English
1130 GMT 4 Mar 88*

[Speech by President Corazon Aquino at the Philippine International Convention Center during a conference with newly elected local officials on 4 March—recorded]

[Text] Secretary Santos, Secretary Ramos, Secretary Monsod, Secretary Macaraig, Secretary Qarague, Undersecretary Farino, the chief local government executives, fellow workers in government, my dear countrymen.

First, may I welcome you all as partners with me in the task of government. Your election completed the structure of democracy. Everything that needed to be done to bring government to the people and people to the government has been done. Except for the barangay elections, we shall have no more elections until 1992. And now, let us get down to business.

With the local elections, the national and local governments lost the last excuse for shortcomings and failures. Now you have the mandate, now you have the authority, and you have my full backing. What you no longer have is any excuse for not delivering on the priorities that we have set. The first and the most important is law and order throughout the land. This calls for the curbing of criminality, and the destruction of the rightist and leftist elements in our society that are bent on the overthrow of our government and our democracy. It means hunting down fascist killers and leftist terrorists, breaking up the gambling syndicates, and flushing out and shutting down the vice dens. It means a concerted and unrelenting military campaign against the fountainhead of communist influence and [words indistinct] the New People's Army. It means, simultaneously, the prompt and efficient delivery of the basic services for which governments are constituted on this earth, and from which they derive the only reason for their expensive existence. It means securing the property of our people, their ways of livelihood, their enterprises, their savings, their investments in the future of their children. Needless to say, it means securing their lives. It means dealing punishment after due process to those who harm them or threaten their democracy, even to those who did not give due process to their victims. It means justice for all, whatever the cost. No one above the law, one law above all. No excuses and no delays. That is why a few weeks ago I chose to pay tribute to constitutionalism. Not by uttering generalities, but by modestly ordering the improvement of the facilities and personnel by which the constitution does justice to the people. That is our first priority. Order, law, justice. Order according to the laws. The laws

enforced in the spirit of justice. And in the hope that the vision for which the best of our race had died in the dark years of the dictatorship will be realized in our lifetime, a just and humane society.

The second priority is economic development. The national government's blueprint for recovery is being implemented. Its complete implementation, not to say success, depends on government's ability to reach all Filipinos, and make a difference in their lives. Beyond a certain point, the national government must depend on local government to supplement its reach and increase its effective assistance and support to the varied efforts of our people to improve the economy and well-being of their families and communities. The excuse before was that the OIC's [officer-in-charge] were not elected, were therefore not believed, and naturally were not being followed. And yet Bitay Lacson showed that you need not wait for an election to show how good a local chief executive can be. The priority of economic development means, in the plainest terms, improving the climate so that business may thrive rather than be stifled. It means taking up your share of governmental responsibility in caring for the poor and helpless, encouraging industry and commerce rather than shaking it down, and protecting property rather than depleting it by improvident measures of taxation and needless expense. It means giving the people the best and most immediate example of the selflessness and total dedication of the true public servant. Before the people see us, who are in the national government, they feel the impact of your action, good or bad. We set great [?store] by the role of local government, for we have always said that only the people can show us the right path and the right pace to certain recovery. And no one is better placed than the local government to directly tap the energy and commitment of the people. To that end we have instituted the following reforms that should facilitate the coordination of national and local government efforts. Realizing that each region, not to say each province, has problems and potentialities for success that are peculiar to itself, I have set up the CORD system, or Cabinet Officer for Regional Development. We have restructured the Regional Development Council, which is meant to be the primary organization for regional progress, to give a more prominent role to local government. And we have created the Local Development Councils, over whose undertakings you shall preside. With these structures in place, we should have a wide channel for two-way traffic in ideas and feedbacks, and thereby enabling us to refine our programs and implement them better. Improving the medium of communication between people and government is just the first part. Equally important is the clarity of government programs and directives. Unless local governments know what the national government offers, the best use of government resources cannot be attained. The draft of a new local government code requires all our departments and agencies to work out with the local government comprehensive and integrated standards and guidelines for regular and recurring transactions

between the national and local government. The departments and agencies must inform the local government of the central funds and services available to them. Within the executive branch itself, arrangements have been made for greater coordination among the various departments in order to bring services and assistance more efficiently to local governments and communities. We are working on decentralizing the authority and functions of the executive department to parallel the move towards the general decentralization of government which seems to be the spirit of the new constitution. Thus, departmental field units are now run by under-secretaries and assistant secretaries who have greater discretion and fiscal autonomy than ever before.

Leading the pact of decentralizing agencies is the Department of Agriculture. The autonomy of local government must equally be reinforced. In the plainest terms, that means money. More funds and other resources for local government. The departments of budget and management, finance and local government, in coordination with the Civil Service Commission, have been instructed to rationalize the salaries of local government officials to raise morale and improve performance. At this time, I am directing the departments of budget and management and local government to review and recommend more realistic compensation scales and allowances for local government officials. We are, likewise, working on a scheme to enable you to tap national funds more easily for your own programs. I shall request the congress to increase the amount of national assistance to local government units that can be released directly to local government from P50,000 currently to P200,000. We are working towards a more equitable sharing with local governments of the proceeds and benefits from the exploitation of natural resources in their vicinities;

We are preparing a scheme to increase internal revenue allotments for local government based on their performance, particularly with [words indistinct] honesty. We aim to relax the statutory contributions of local government to the various agencies and programs of the national government.

In the first and most important of local government, which is peace and order, I have approved the reorganization and strengthening of the peace and order councils from the national to the local level so that we can bring to bear on the problems of criminality and insurgency the combined power of government and people. I take this aspect very seriously and will regard as critical the continued cooperation between the national and local governments, the spotlessness of the local officials' record, as well as their reputation for honesty and obedience to the laws and morals of our society. Without your good example, the fight against crime and insurgency will fail.

In areas of particular ethnic and cultural uniqueness, we have made great progress in laying the groundwork for their eventual genuine autonomy within the framework

of the constitution. The Regional Consultative Council members are being selected to help congress draft the organic act, giving and defining the autonomy of the Cordillera and Muslim regions. These and other measures, too many to detail here, will require legislation, such as a new local government code, a new local tax code, the organic laws of the autonomous regions, amendments to laws on revenue allotments and statutory contributions by local governments, and a law creating the Philippine National Police, and defining the proper role of local executives in law enforcement.

Let me end on the dominant note of this address. In the end, the kind of government we give turns on the kind of people we are. If we are dishonest, it will be dishonest government. If imprudent, it will be wasteful government. If incompetent, that will show in the economic and social regression of our communities, and of our country as a whole. We rule effectively only by example. The advice I give you is not a counsel of perfection; We are honored to have among us today former OIC's who have shown that sincere and uncompromising public service need not spell electoral defeat. On the contrary, take this political advice from me, although I am not a political pro. Given the time and the changes that have taken place in our people, the only way to reelection is not through empty image making, but through good government. Let us work together and not against each other. Our people deserve the best, let us give them our best. Thank you and good afternoon.

Aquino Asks Islamic Body To Reject MNLF
HK041250 Hong Kong AFP in English 1146 GMT
4 Mar 88

[By Roberto Coloma]

[Text] Manila, March 4 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino Friday reiterated her appeal for the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to reject a membership application by Moslem rebels in the southern Philippines.

The appeal came as a polemic heightened between Manila and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), which is seeking to become the 47th member of the OIC to boost its campaign for Moslem self-rule in Mindanao and nearby islands.

Manila newspapers reflected the tensions in the run-up to the OIC meeting in Jordan starting March 21. Headlines warned of the MNLF's impending admission and looming war in the south.

"The president denies or doubts the accuracy of these front-page stories and she says that our position remains as it has been, that she has appealed to the OIC not to accept the membership of the MNLF," spokesman Teodoro Benigno said.

Manila maintains that the application is not even on the OIC agenda, but the rebels, believed to have 20,000 guerrillas armed and trained by Arab countries led by Libya, say they expect admission during the Amman meeting.

OIC membership would give the MNLF the same international status as the Palestine Liberation Organization.

An estimated 100,000 people, including Moslems and Christian civilians as well as government troops and MNLF guerrillas, have died in the separatist conflict, which peaked in the mid-1970's.

"OIC affirms support for MNLF's bid," the PHILIPPINE INQUIRER newspaper said Friday under the caricature of an Arab side by side with MNLF chief Nur Misuari clutching an assault rifle.

Next to the story was an analysis which said the MNLF would join the OIC "sooner or later" and warned Manila to "prepare for war in the south because the MNLF will fight to the last man to uphold its international status."

Rey Ibrahim Uy, the MNLF spokesman in Manila, said at a news conference carried by state-run television Friday that the OIC was in "complete solidarity in confirming the MNLF membership bid."

The Manila press interpreted a joint statement of support for the MNLF issued Thursday by Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Senegal and Libya—assigned by the OIC to oversee the Philippine problem—as backing the membership bid.

Presidential military adviser Jose Magno, a former major-general who once led security forces against the MNLF, said Friday that "if you had been in the thick of the fighting in the seventies, I feel that this announcement, if it would be coming through in March 21, would be a setback for the government."

Leading senators also warned the OIC Friday against admitting the MNLF.

Senator Aquilino Pimentel of Mindanao said "these moves are boxing us into a position where probably we have to resort to more drastic measures."

Senator Ernesto Maceda, head of the senate defense committee, said granting OIC membership to the MNLF "would give good reason to break off diplomatic relations with these countries."

Mrs. Aquino flew last week to the heart of the Moslem homeland, warning that the Philippine Armed Forces were prepared to crush a renewed separatist war while offering political autonomy and massive development for the Moros.

The Moros are the fiercely independent tribes converted to Islam in the 14th century. They are estimated to number five million out of the largely Roman Catholic national population of 57 million.

The MNLF rejects Mrs. Aquino's offer of autonomy, which is guaranteed by the constitution, particularly the requirement that a plebiscite be held among local residents. Moros are outnumbered by Christians in most of the 13 provinces which the MNLF wants Mrs. Aquino to put under their control.

Armed Forces chief of staff General Renato de Villa said Friday that the military high command had prepared contingency plans in case the MNLF war breaks out anew.

More than one-third of the Philippines' 160,000 troops are already stationed in Mindanao and other southern islands, with the rest tied down fighting communist New People's Army guerrillas.

Doubts MNLF Acceptance

HK040856 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] One of the prevalent issues under discussion, especially in the morning newspapers, is the alleged support of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] for the MNLF.

The president does not believe that the OIC will approve the MNLF's membership bid. Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said the reports are not accurate. According to Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, President Aquino's stand urging the OIC member countries not to admit the MNLF remains firm. Benigno said that Secretary Manglapus is carrying out continued negotiations with the ambassadors of the OIC member countries in order to block the membership bid.

[Begin Benigno recording, in English] The president denies or doubts the accuracy of the front page stories. And she says her position remains as it has been, that she has appealed to the OIC not to accept the membership of the MNLF. Her statement rests there and she is still confident that the reports are wrong.

I called up Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus to find out the latest, and he authorized me to convey to you this statement, which he gave me over the telephone. He said, "We have been in touch with the various ambassadors since those reports were carried in the newspapers. I doubt the accuracy of the quotation from Pirzada, the OIC secretary-general. We remain optimistic that the MNLF bid for full membership will not be accepted. I have the highest personal respect for Nur Misuari because he (?opposed) the dictatorship. But I do not see

that his movement is getting any support from the OIC because that would be a recognition of a secessionist movement, which most OIC member-countries do not support." [end recording]

Meanwhile, Malacanang newsmen were able to interview military adviser Jose Magno. He stressed that the government would never allow the country to be divided. He said that if the MNLF were admitted to the OIC, this would cause great harm to the country. But he did not disclose what measures the government would carry out.

[Begin Magno recording, in English] Now, the question is what would be the effect of the acceptance of the MNLF as a member of the OIC. In my opinion it will grant (?belligerent) status to the MNLF. And as such, it would recognize the MNLF as an independent or separate state, which would mean it has its own territory, which could never happen within the territorial integrity of our country. No portion of this land could be designated for a particular group of people, much less the MNLF—a group of people that would reside in that territory. They cannot claim that all of them would like to be under the state because it is still composed of 23 percent Muslims, and the rest are Christians, and not all of them would want to stay within that place. Sovereignty? They cannot claim sovereignty because they cannot actually hang up their own plans without provoking the retaliatory action of the government in an effort to preserve its national sovereignty. [end recording]

Daily on Islamic Body Talks With Mitra
PM031217 Jeddah SAUDI GAZETTE in English
25 Feb 88 p 1

[Mir Ayoob Ali Khan report: "MNLF Rejects Mitra Plan"]

[Text] Jeddah—The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rejected the idea of forming a consultative committee to solve the problem of Mindanao as Ramon Mitra, the speaker of the Philippines Parliament, left Saudi Arabia after meeting the Organisation of Islamic Conference [OIC] Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada in Jeddah today.

Mitra and Pirzada refrained from commenting on the talks they held for more than an hour at the Islamic Secretariat. Later the Secretariat issued a statement which said, "the delegations of the OIC and the Philippines Congress held discussions regarding the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement signed in 1976 to grant autonomy to Mindanao. The two sides discussed autonomy for the Muslims living in Basilan, Sulu, Tawi Tawi, Zamboanga de Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, North Cotabato, Miguindanao, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao Norte, Lanao Sur, Davao Sur, South Cotabato and Palawan and all the cities and villages situated in the above mentioned areas."

Mitra and three other Congressmen, according to sources close to the OIC, explained to Pirzada the moves taken by the Philippines government to solve the problem of Mindanao. Later, the sources said, Mitra also explained about the "dangers" of upgrading the status of the MNLF at the OIC from that of an observer to a full member.

The recognition of the MNLF as full member by the OIC will give the front a virtual government in exile position on par with the PLO.

The front spokesman said that it could bring up the subject of full membership with the OIC during the preparatory meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers scheduled in Jordan next month. "There is still a lot of time for us to put our request (about the membership) before the Islamic foreign ministers in clear terms," the spokesman said.

Mitra was accompanied by Congressmen, Amado Bagatsing, Michael Mastura and Abdusakar Tan, the Philippines ambassador to the Kingdom Mauyag Tamano and Acting Consul-General Bahnarim A. Guinomla.

Responding to a remark made earlier by Mitra, the front spokesman rejected the idea of forming a consultative committee which will recommend to the Congress the means of solving the problem of Mindanao.

The partial list of the members of the consultative committee issued in the Philippines, the spokesman said, is overwhelmingly Christian dominated and the names of the Muslims which figure in the list are handpicked by the government. Also there is no role envisaged for the MNLF in the committee. "We dismiss the idea of the committee in its entirety," the spokesman said.

He alleged that the government of the President Corazon Aquino has been trying to "liquidate" the Muslim struggle in Mindanao by asking the Islamic states and the OIC to stop support for the MNLF.

He also said that there has been no formal request from Mitra to meet the front chairman Nur Misuari. "These are all propaganda tactics," he added.

MNLF Official Denounces Government Plans
HK040907 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] In a report from Zamboanga, the MNLF denounced the government's plan to create a Regional Consultative Commission [RCC]. Here is the report from Gerry Ponterada:

[Begin recording in English] The Moro National Liberation Front, speaking through Anuar Ali, a member of its central committee, has accused the government of

treachery and insincerity by pushing through with the formation of the RCC without the permission of the MNLF. Ali's statement was contained in a press release issued by the Bangsa Moro [Moro Homeland] News Agency with the [words indistinct] headline. The state of war is a reality in Mindanao, Ali said. There can be no peace unless settlement is reached between the MNLF and the Philippine government. He said the government should admit the MNLF's demand for the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement, if it is sincere in wanting peace for Mindanao.

The MNLF official [words indistinct] that the Philippine Government does not have the honest intention of establishing a meaningful regional government and lasting peace. He said it intends to set up a puppet regional government, which would allow the Manila government to continue its exploitation of our men and people.

Ali urged the people of Mindanao regardless of the bid to support the MNLF struggle for liberation. That is the news from Zamboanga City, Gerry Ponterada reporting, Zamboanga City PFCB [Philippine Federation of Catholic Broadcasters]. [end recording]

Ramos Identifies Elite MNLF Force
BK041114 Quezon City RPN 9 Television
in English 1030 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Excerpt] An elite rebel Moslem force with some 2,600 members is now deployed in central and northern Mindanao apparently for a planned offensive timed for the annual meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] in Amman, Jordan this month. This was disclosed today by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos. Ramos identified the elite force of the Moro National Liberation Front as the National Security Command or Nascom.

The defense chief said there are three Moslem rebel factions in Mindanao with an estimated combined strength of 19,800 with only about 10,600 bearing arms.

Meantime, Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Juan Ponce Enrile today urged President Aquino to launch a diplomatic offensive against the MNLF bid at the OIC meeting, while Senator Ernesto Maceda battered for breaking-off of diplomatic ties with Middle East countries openly backing the MNLF. [passage omitted]

Partido ng Bayan Leader Backs MNLF
HK040827 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 4 Mar 88 p 2

[By staff writers Julius Foruna and Fely Gob, with a report from Rose Caban]

[Text] The separatist Moro National Liberation Front yesterday gained a non-Moro supporter, the left-leaning Partido ng Bayan. [PnB—People's Party]

"The struggle of the Muslim people for self-determination deserves the sympathy and support of all groups wishing to see our country freed from foreign and feudal oppression," Fidel Agcaoili, PnB chairman, said.

He recalled that in 1978, the Moro National Liberation Front was adjudged by an international tribunal "as the genuine representative of the Muslim people."

The conference, held in Antwerp, Belgium, was participated in by representatives of Muslim and non-Muslim who were opposed to the Marcos government.

After the conference, the Marcos government was adjudged as "guilty of genocidal crimes against the Filipino and Muslim people."

Claiming that no basic change has occurred in the treatment by the Manila government of the problems of the Muslim people, the PnB leader admitted that "there is no change in our policy towards the MNLF."

Agcaoili traced the Muslim rebellion to the "chauvinism of the non-Muslim big landlords who have driven away the poor Muslims from the frontier lands with collaboration of the U.S. agricultural firms."

He said that although the fighting in Mindanao appears to have a religious dimension, it is actually rooted in the struggle of the Muslim farmers for land and in their overall aspiration for cultural integrity.

Should war break out, he said, the blame should be laid squarely in the lap of the Aquino government which "has upheld the same policies pursued by the Marcos government."

Agcaoili, however, refused to categorically endorse the move of the MNLF to seek regular status in the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC].

"Although we can understand why the MNLF is doing that, we are not yet in a position to make a categorical position because of its long-term implications," he said.

He said that while PnB supports the Muslim struggle for self-determination, the party is leaving it to the Muslim people to decide on what form of struggle they intend to utilize.

He also revealed that PnB has relations with the Mindanao-based Islamic Party of the Philippines which won some seats during the last local elections.

A government spokesman, meanwhile, said that the organization of Islamic Conference cannot press for the implementation of the 1976 Tripoli Agreement and force the government to declare autonomy areas in 13 provinces.

Gerry Reyes, a consultant to the Peace Commission, also said that any future OIC resolution on the autonomy issue in Mindanao will have no binding effect on the Philippine government since it is not an OIC member.

Fighting in Negros Oriental Continues To Rage

HK031017 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
0700 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] In Negros Oriental, the fight between rebel forces and military operatives in Santa Catalina continues to rage. Here is the report from Dumaguete City by Ponce Durban:

[Begin recording, in English] Government troops clashed with communist guerillas yesterday in two barangays in Santa Catalinan, Negros Oriental. The rebels were believed to be part of a bigger NPA group who raided and burned the headquarters of the 336th PC Company in (Nagbagaam), Santa Catalina. One soldier was wounded in yesterday afternoon's encounter in barangay Tablang. There were no immediate report of casualties on the rebel side. However, the military expects a heavy number of casualties because two helicopters were able to join the fighting. Pursuit operations are still going on against the NPA band. [Word indistinct] from the Special Regional Action Force, Scout Ranger Battalion, the 336th and the 337th PC Company have joined forces in the operations.

In a related development, provincial commander Colonel Samuel Tomas has stressed the need to improve the intelligence gathering operation in Negros Oriental. He made this comment after asserting the recent raid on the 336th PC Company in Santa Catalina by communist guerrillas. Tomas said the raid would not have happened if the PC company was able to gather intelligence reports beforehand. [end recording]

Rebels Said Monitoring Military Activities

HK040555 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0500 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Armed Forces Chief General Renato de Villa has ordered all military commanders to take action in the wake of reports that the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA and the NDF are operating listening posts close to military detachments around the country. The listening posts are used to monitor troop movements and planned attacks. According to the reports, the listening posts are safehouses outfitted with communication facilities. De Villa also said that the rebels are using 2-way radios in the national capital region, as well as utilizing beggars and street vendors as look-outs.

De Villa Says Communism 'Merits Action'

HK021023 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
2 Mar 88 p 8

[Text] How serious a threat is communism to national security?

Speaking before members of the Makati Business Club yesterday, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff Renato de Villa said communism is serious enough as to merit concern and concerted action.

The threat of communist insurgency in the Philippines is posed by three groups with a unity of purpose: the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the National Democratic Front (NDF) and the New People's Army (NPA).

They have united their forces to bring about their version of people's war, that is, the elimination of the elitist class leading to a classless society.

The CPP is the political arm of the group. The NPA, on the other hand, represents the military counterpart of the AFP. While the NDF provides the structural link between the NPA and the CPP, acting as its central committee.

Since the inception of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) in 1968, the group has steadily increased its manpower. From less than a hundred cadres, it has swelled to an estimated 23,000-25,000 members and armed elements.

Documents obtained by BUSINESS WORLD show that the average rate of increase in manpower strength from 1983 to 1987 is placed at 34 percent.

The group's efforts in waging a people's war operate on three fronts: political front, united front, and the guerilla front to which the party concentrates most of its activities.

The political, united, and guerilla front operations of these insurgents are centralized under one umbrella committee, the central committee. Mr. De Villa identified two pillars of the central committee as one Benito Tiamson, the chairman, and Rafael Baylosis.

The party has established functional commissions in the areas of the military, research, and propaganda, as well as organization and united front building.

The group also has confirmed supporters among trade unions, urban poor, the youth and the students. Members from these sectors form the core of the NDF. The NDF employs these organizational arms in its propaganda campaign. It has also a network of support institutions and agencies that take care of the party's logistical requirement.

As to the group's fund solicitation efforts, the group gets its funds through "progressive taxation." They likewise took advantage of the latest political exercise by extorting fees for "permit to campaign."

Overseas-wise, the party has set up an international network thru the NDF courtesy of the efforts of former priest Luis Jalandoni. To date, the group has supporters in the United States, Western Europe, and the Middle East.

Because of this highly-cohesive organizational infrastructure, they have advanced operations from the countryside to the urban cities. In Mr. de Villa's estimate, around 10 Filipinos die everyday.

Aside from the armed struggle in the countryside and in the urban centers, the group has also taken on a non-military or political type of struggle. They party has participated in various electoral exercises: senatorial, congressional, and local elections. Because they failed to get support from these exercises, they are now eyeing the Barangay elections.

The AFP, for its part, is not letting up. From a defensive stance taken in 1986, the new chief of staff has ordered offensive attacks on these insurgents. Mr. De Villa cited the recent dismantling of the group's nerve center in Metro Manila.

In this assault, the AFP has obliterated the group's communications network, financial infrastructure and field medical facilities.

Highly-subversive documents were likewise seized. These documents revealed the group's six-year and three-year plans to overthrow the government. It also disclosed CPP infiltration of the food, medicine, transportation, banking, apparel, mining, coconut and sugar industries.

Rules Out Communist Take-Over

*HK040251 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company
in English 2300 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa ruled out any possibility of a communist take-over in 1992. De Villa appeared for the first time before the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines at the Ramada Hotel since becoming chief of staff. He said that with few adjustments, the Armed Forces can be a more effective fighting machine against the NPA. Gen de Villa also said the government has sufficient forces to thwart any renewed hostilities in Mindanao. He said that with 40 battalions of troops now stationed in Mindanao, the government can stop any renewed war that may be initiated by the MNLF.

Says Another Coup Unlikely

*HK040805 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY GLOBE
in English 4 Mar 88 p 2*

[Text] Gen. Renato S. de Villa, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] chief of staff, said yesterday no group has the capability of launching another coup attempt.

De Villa said the AFP is now "stable and united" and the possibility of another coup attempt against the government is "remote."

The two-year old Aquino government has so far weathered seven coup attempts from Marcos Loyalists and extreme rightist groups. The last and most bloody of these was staged last August 28.

De Villa noted that members of the Armed Forces who used to support coup plotters have "joined the mainstream of the AFP," which is "sworn to protect the Constitution and secure the Republic."

Most of the military men involved in previous coup attempts, De Villa said, have been arrested and some have already been convicted. The rest, he said, are in hiding, making it difficult for them to plan, much less launch another "adventure."

Meanwhile, a group of retired military officers said the AFP, as an organization is "in disarray" and the organization is wracked by "doubtful loyalties and leadership problems."

Retired Brig. Gen. Manuel B. Sequio, president and chairman of the board of The Last Watering Hole Association Inc., said the AFP's problem is the result of the "vacuum that now prevails at the top military leadership."

Says Army Will Recruit 6,000

*BK040455 Manila PNA in English 0357 GMT
4 Mar 88*

[Text] Manila, March 4 (PNA/OANA)—The Armed Forces is recruiting more troops to fight the New People's Army (NPA), the armed wing of the banned Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), according to Chief of Staff General Renato S. de Villa.

The military, he said, was authorized to recruit 6,000 soldiers this year, equivalent to 10 fresh battalions for the Armed Forces which now has some 80 combat battalions spread out across the country.

The current command setup is also being reorganized to put more combat forces in the front-lines. He estimated the enemy strength at between 23,000 and 25,000 guerrillas, 16,000 of them armed.

The underground communist movement has set its time frame to take over government in 1992, the same year targetted by President Corazon C. Aquino to crush the insurgency. Aquino's six-year term also expires in 1992.

De Villa expressed confidence the Armed Forces could meet the president's target but reiterated the military's proposals for Congress to strengthen security laws, including restoration of the death penalty which was abolished by the 1987 Constitution.

De Villa, whose appointment as military chief has yet to be confirmed by Congress, also urged Washington to speed up deliveries of military hardware needed by troops in the field. The aid is part of a compensation package for the use of Philippine bases by the U.S. Armed Forces.

Gen. de Villa said the NPA is itself increasing its arsenal and continues to receive funding from foreign sources.

The military meanwhile is preparing to mount offensives against the rebels following the expiration of an extended amnesty deadline for them to surrender on February 29.

The CPP-NPA have claimed influence in at least 63 of the country's 75 provinces and were themselves planning to mount a so-called summer offensive in the Philippine countryside after having been beaten back in urban centers, including Metro Manila where many ranking dissidents were rounded up last month.

Columnist Warns of Military Discontentment
HK030903 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
3 Mar 88 p 4

["Pipeline" column by Tony Gatmaitan: "The Military Options"]

[Excerpt] Brig. Gen. Florencio Magsino, recently retired from the active service, warned, in his DAILY GLOBE column Monday, that "if the public persists in its passivity (on the insurgency problem)...the military, as feared by many, may thus take upon itself the role of the country's savior."

He observed that the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] has been unfairly placed under fire by "politicians, journalists and leftists..." for suggesting additional legal weapons (emergency rule, a merely national ID system [as published], an internal security act) intended to contain the insurgents, and was particularly dismayed by the public's seeming lack of concern at what Congress and media have done to demean the efforts of the military. "...This is a blind prejudice against any AFP-sponsored measure," he added.

This highly regarded professional soldier may simply be echoing the sentiments and frustrations of former colleagues, mostly generals, who many still be in uniform. In which case, we are in for interesting times once again.

Already, baby-faced lieutenants, bearded colonels and balding generals are preparing their own formulations on how to set things right. The range of options extend from a limited strike at their perceived tormentors, another mutiny, mass insubordination or a total takeover.

"There will be no Mr Nice Guys the next time around," predicts a local analyst, "the plotters will justify their actions by claiming that it is a matter of survival."

Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa, whose appointments are expected to be confirmed within the week, have to move fast.

The troops in the field need moral and material support from GHQ [General Headquarters] and the national leadership—the more visible the better.

"People talk about the gold in Fort Santiago...nobody seems to care anymore about the soldiers who laid down their lives for the country," complained a young officer bitterly.

"Lt. Felix Brawner III (killed in an ambush in Bicol last week) was the 14th casualty in our PMA [Philippine Military Academy] Class '84...he is more than just a statistic, he was a hero. But the newspapers were more interested in child prostitutes....," he added.

The young combat officers have become cynics. Deep inside, they feel unappreciated and neglected even by their own government.

PC 1st Lt. James Andres Melad, of the Cagayan Constabulary Headquarters, wrote his Commander-in-Chief, President Corazon Aquino to tell her about the life of a soldier and what it was really like in "the lonely field of war."

He described his poorly laced two-year old combat boots, soda crackers for provisions, limited ammunition and no transport. Helicopters, he claimed, flew more for administrative trips rather than in support of combat operations.

From his distant post, the combat officer saw "the pampered elements of the elite military units," well provided for with shiny boots, freshly pressed uniforms, the latest in weaponry with ammo to spare as they protected the Head of State in air-conditioned rooms, "while the needs in the field were ignored. [passage omitted]

Columnist on Military, NPA, Marcos Return
HK030341 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television
Arts Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Mar 88

[From the "Straight From the Shoulder" program hosted by Luis Beltrap: "Column of the Air"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The other question uppermost in the minds of a lot of people is the military situation in the country, which can be described in one word: bad. We have a military that's 150,000 strong. According to conservative estimates, there are 25,000 NPAs. Some of the more wild speculative estimates go as high as 40,000. There are an estimated 15,000 MNLF waiting to fight the Armed Forces. If we follow the normal guerrilla dictum of 10 regular soldiers to one guerrilla, we should have an Armed Forces of about half a million. We have 150,000. Many of them are not in the

field; they are out collecting—well, maybe giving—traffic tickets, sitting in offices, issuing clearances for vehicles, and stuff like that. We probably have about 100,000 out in the field chasing the NPA. That's the military situation for you. It's so bad, they can't even put up a decent coup d'etat. [passage omitted]

One of the lesser written about persons in the Philippines today is a certain Ferdinand E. Marcos, but all of a sudden you read about the new administration softening its attitude towards Mr Marcos. What's the background? Very simple. During the past few months, one of the major issues against Ronald Reagan was the so-called Iran Contra scandal—the shipment of arms to Iran, which is a hostile nation which has a habit of taking American hostages. This was a major issue in the U. S.

What has Marcos got to do with it? It may interest you to know that during the time of Mr Marcos, the top officials of his Armed Forces issued what they called end-users certificates which made it possible for arms to be shipped from the Philippines to Iran—or at least on pieces of paper. They probably shipped the arms directly, they only made the end-users certificates available because of accommodation by Mr Marcos. If Mr Marcos now identifies the people involved (some of them are presidential candidates in the coming U.S. election), he could upset even the upcome of the U.S. presidential election.

Now you know how influential American officials are as far as the new administration is concerned. The speculation is that they are here, or they have come here, to tell the administration to go easy on Mr Marcos, to make him believe that they are going to welcome him home so that he will keep his mouth shut until after the U.S. presidential election. [passage omitted]

One of the bad pieces of news we have to share with you is the result of the recent NPA plenum. A plenum is a meeting of the top leadership of the Communist Party. According to some of our sources who have access to that information, in the NPA plenum held a few weeks ago, the group which predominated was the military commission of the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA. The military commission controls the NPA. There was a dispute between those who want to take the parliamentary method, and those who want to use military means. The militarists won. According to their new strategies, this year will see some selective assassinations of enemies of the people. So if you're one of them, you better get a bullet-proof vest. [passage omitted]

Editorial on 'Price' of Marcos' Return
HK031039 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 3 Mar 88 p 4

["Editorial": "Possible Cost of a Marcos Return"]

[Text] The Filipino nation as well as the deposed strongman himself appear unready to lay to rest the Marcos years.

Two years after the flight of Ferdinand Marcos and his family and the installation of the Aquino Administration, the mere mention of negotiations for his return has stirred controversy, provoking recriminations against him by some government officials and, from the other extreme touching off letter campaigns calling for reconciliation and forgiveness.

Beyond the emotionalism the issue has generated are the facts that need to be examined. President Aquino has said she would consider allowing him to come home provided "he returns the money he stole." A second condition is his recognition of the Aquino Government and a guarantee not to destabilize it.

Mr Marcos has replied by congratulating the Aquino Administration's survival at this particular time "when many countries especially those in the Third World have foundered and gone under water."

He has also said he is ready to return to the Philippines "for the salvation of the country from a bloody takeover by communist insurgents," a statement that gives away his grudging reluctance to concede that power has transferred to a new government installed by the people 24 months ago.

The crucial question facing the Government is how far it is willing to trust Mr Marcos to keep his word. Given the enormous problems created during his 20-year rule can Mr Marcos now be counted upon to help unravel them even by his acquiescence not to meddle in politics upon his return?

A point that argues for Mr Marcos' return is the prospect of his handing over money that rightfully belongs to the Philippine Government. By most accounts that prospect appears to be bleak. Many of the properties and investments that have been traced to the Marcoses are tied up in law suits and other legal actions. It will take years even under the most favorable conditions to get back this money and witness its infusion into the economy.

Moreover, the political price Filipinos may have to pay for this money could be staggering. It may entail political havoc which the former president remains capable of wreaking considering his large and loyal following. With the benefit of hindsight the unarguable fact is that no amount can buy back the moral bankruptcy and the warped values that have become the legacy of the Marcos years.

Thailand

Lao Border Talks Continue in Bangkok

Officials Describe Atmosphere
BK031444 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1200 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] The political negotiations between Thai and Lao representatives to resolve the Thai-Lao border demarcation problem at Ban Romklao of Chat Trakan District in

Phitsanulok Province have been conducted in an atmosphere of good understanding. Prida Akkharaphibun, a Public Relations Department correspondent, reported that the negotiations began at the Foreign Ministry this morning with the Thai permanent secretary for foreign affairs, M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi, head of the Thai delegation, and the deputy chief of the General Political Department of the LPA, Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit, head of the Lao delegation, holding a private meeting prior to the meeting of the two delegations. The Thai delegation consists of 17 members, while the Lao delegation consists of 9. After a lunch break, the meeting continued in the afternoon from 1400 to 1600. After the negotiations M.R. Kasemsamoson Kasemsi said that the meeting was held in a friendly and brotherly manner. The Thai side showed legal evidence, maps, and other items for consideration in defining the border in Phitsanulok Province and in Sayaboury Province of Laos in accordance with the joint agreement concluded between the two countries' military delegations on 17 February. The permanent secretary for foreign affairs had the following comment on the meeting, which is to continued tomorrow:

[Begin M.R. Kasemsamoson recording] We will consider what further action should be taken to maintain the good relations and true cooperation, as well as to pave way for the future talks between the two countries. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Brigadier General Thonglai Kommasit disclosed that the two delegations held talks on the basis of the long-standing friendship between the peoples of the two countries and in a cordial atmosphere, just as the military delegations did earlier, to create good understanding. Although some obstacles remain, he believed that the manner in which the negotiations are proceeding will lead to success. Brigadier General Thonglai made the following statement in Lao:

[Begin Thonglai recording] I wish to express my satisfaction with today's talks during which both sides noted the significance of the long-standing friendship between the Lao and Thai fraternal people. The meeting proceeded in a cordial atmosphere. It can be said that we followed the example set earlier by the military delegations; this is the best way to help us understand each other. Although we still face some difficulties and obstacles, we believe that the manner in which we hold the talks and try to understand each other will lead us to success. [end recording]

It was reported that the Thai and Lao delegations will resume negotiations at 0900 tomorrow.

Sitthi Hopeful on Agreement

BK040131 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
4 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said he expects an agreement to be reached today on a framework to resolve the Ban Romklao border dispute following progress yesterday between Thai and Laotian negotiators on their first day of talks.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi said that if all goes well today, he will visit Vientiane on Monday to sign either a framework agreement or a memorandum of understanding.

The minister said Thailand made a number of proposals yesterday which the Laotian delegation asked to consider overnight. They are expected to respond today.

ACM Sitthi declined to reveal details of the proposals.

The two sides are today expected to discuss extending the ceasefire agreement signed on February 17, which is to expire at 8.00 a.m. tomorrow, Foreign Ministry sources said last night.

The Thai and Laotian delegation leaders—Foreign Ministry permanent secretary Kasemsamoson Kasemsi and Brig Gen Thonglai Kommasit, respectively—said yesterday's talks were held in a cordial atmosphere, unlike a previous diplomatic debacle when Laotian deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat visited Bangkok last year.

Both sides took care to avoid a repetition of that incident, with Mr Kasem and Brig Gen Thonglai emerging from the meeting together and with a prepared joint press statement.

During the Arun Phanuphong-Souban talks last year, Mr Souban attacked Thailand after the first round of negotiations, prompting the Foreign Ministry to issue a counter-attack.

Mr Kasem said both sides yesterday presented different maps, treaties and laws substantiating their respective claims to territory in the Ban Romklao area, although basic positions did not differ.

Thailand still contends that the demarcation line is the Heuang Nga River, while Laos maintains that the Heuang River, with its source in Phu Soi Dao, is the borderline.

Both sides also pinpointed specific areas which they claim to be in their respective territories, sources added.

The sources said one point both sides accepted was use of the Franco-Siam Treaty of 1907, although there was disagreement on a U.S. military aerial map submitted by the Laotians.

They said there are many border areas in dispute. They added that a possibility existed that a joint border committee may be revived to handle such matters.

Although both sides are prepared to continue working towards a solution, Mr Kasem said finding a resolution to the border problem within a single day is not easy.

Ministry sources expressed optimism, however, that some agreement on a framework would be reached today.

The sources said Mr Kasem raised the question of extending the ceasefire agreement, but the talks did not go into any details.

Mr Kasem said yesterday's talks marked the starting point for a process that would preserve "good ties and cooperation".

Brig Gen Thonglai said he was satisfied with yesterday's talks and said both sides were emphasising long-term friendship.

Despite obstacles, he said he was sure the talks would be a success.

Sources said that after the meeting, Mr Kasem briefed ACM Sitthi on the negotiations. He in turn briefed Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon.

Foreign and Defence Ministry coordinator Lt-Gen Charan Kunlawanit briefed Army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Army Chief-of-Staff Gen Charuai Wongsayan.

Gen Chawalit will host a dinner for the Laotian delegation tonight at his Suan Phut Tan residence.

Meanwhile, ACM Sitthi said yesterday he has asked to postpone a scheduled appearance before the House and Senate Foreign and Military Affairs committees until next week because of the Thai-Lao talks. He was scheduled to brief the MPs on the recent border fighting.

Draft Agreement Discussed

BK041226 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1200 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Political negotiations between the Thai and Lao delegations aimed at resolving the border demarcation problem at Ban Romklao of Chat Trakan District in Phitsanulok Province were held at the Foreign Ministry both in the morning and the afternoon [of 4 March]. Prida Akkharaphibun, a Public Relations Department correspondent, reported that the meeting in the morning began at 0900 and recessed at 1230. The meeting resumed in the afternoon at 1400. As of the reporting time, the meeting had not yet ended. However, the negotiations between the two countries' delegations proceeded in an atmosphere of good mutual understanding. Today's meeting discussed details of the negotiation's draft agreement.

Army Deputy Chief on Casualties in Lao Battle BK040038 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Mar 88 pp 1, 3

[Text] A total of 147 Thai soldiers died in the three-month-long battle at Ban Romklao, Deputy Army Commander in Chief Gen Wanchai Ruangtrakun said yesterday.

He said another 166 were injured and 80 of them were subsequently discharged from the army after they became disabled.

It is the first time that a senior army officer has given an official figure on the casualties suffered by Thai forces in the fight with Laos.

He said the figures were compiled by the army as of Tuesday. Thailand and Laos signed a cease-fire agreement which went into effect on Feb 19.

Wanchai did not provide figures on the Laotian casualties. Unofficial figures put the casualties on both sides at over 700.

Wanchai was speaking to reporters at the army auditorium where a press conference was held to report on public donations for the fighting soldiers.

Speaking on the same occasion, Lt Gen Siri Thiwaphan, commander of the 3rd Army Region, said most of the Thai casualties were caused by landmines and artillery shells.

Siri, whose army unit has jurisdiction over the border area in Phitsanulok, denied reports that the Thai-Laotian border conflict resulted from forest encroachment by illegal log cutters.

He blamed the Laotians as the cause of the conflict.

Siri said 200 Laotian troops attacked an outpost of Thai army-trained volunteers last Aug 8.

"But now that we have settled the conflict we should start anew," he said.

Wanchai told the press conference that the army received cash donations totalling 4 million baht [amount as published—Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English on 4 March page 3 carries a similar story but reports that the donations total about 40 million baht] and another 4 million baht in kind.

The army has set up a donation centre to solicit donations from the public.

He said 20 million baht will be paid as compensation to soldiers who died or were maimed.

According to the army regulation, the family of a soldier who dies on duty is entitled to compensation of 50,000 baht in addition to monthly pay for his children's education. A soldier who becomes disabled gets 40,000 baht.

Soldiers seriously injured are each paid 20,000 baht while those with minor injuries get 5,000 baht.

Wanchai laid the army will begin paying the compensations on March 7.

Siri said the 3rd Army Region plans to build a monument at Ban Romklao in memory of the fallen soldiers.

Official Warns of Further Lao Border Clash
BK040103 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
4 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] Three Thai villages located at the border area in Khong Chiam and Phibun Mangsahan districts of Ubon Ratchathani province are claimed by Vientiane as being in Laotian territory, provincial MP Itsara Somchai said yesterday.

He said he was told by villagers that Laos had sent a military patrol into the area to urge residents to move away.

The three villages are Ban Wonbuk in Tambon Khamkhuaekao of Khong Chiam district, Ban Thung Nong Bua and Ban Hin Sung in Tambon Chongmek of Phibun Mangsahan district.

The MP said there was no natural border or demarcation line in the area.

He said Thai soldiers had marked a boundary with wood, but Laos had said the line was 10 km within Laotian territory.

"I'm quite concerned that the area will become a possible area of conflict between Thailand and Laos after the Ban Romklao incident," said the MP, who urged the Government to raise the issue for discussion during the current Thai-Lao talks.

Mr Itsara added that Thai soldiers had been reinforced in the area, which prompted concern among local people that the dispute could turn violent in the near future.

"People there are frightened by the incident. It looks like fighting is going on in the area but there is no real fighting," he said.

The MP said the villages are all in Thai territory and residents all have Thai ID cards.

Press 'Requested' To Stop Cease-Fire Criticism
BK040107 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
4 Mar 88 p 1

[Text] All newspapers and magazines were yesterday "requested" by the Bangkok Press Officer to stop criticising the Thai-Lao ceasefire agreement and the Government's efforts to improve Thai-Lao relations or face stiff legal action.

The Press Officer pointed out in his "request" which was acknowledged by representatives of several local publications that some newspapers had presented commentaries in such a way that reflected an opposition to the truce agreement and political efforts to bolster relations between the two countries.

Such commentaries may constitute a violation of public order in accordance with the Printing Act B.E. 2484 [1941 A.D.] and also Article 42 of the National Administrative Reform Council B.E. 2519, warned the Press Officer.

The officer "requested" that all newspapers and magazines exercise discretion in their presentation of news and commentaries and stop publishing articles which could disrupt attempts to improve Thai-Lao relations and cause misunderstanding among Thais about the merits of the ceasefire.

More Involvement in Foreign Policy Urged
BK031043 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai
3 Mar 88 p 3

[Editorial: "Foreign Policy"]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has been criticized strongly following the Thai-Lao border dispute in Ban Romklao and the successful negotiation of a cease-fire agreement by a military delegation led by General Chawalit Yongchaiyot, army commander in chief and acting supreme commander.

The criticism has come primarily from the mass media, especially journalists. Among political leaders, Community Action Party [CAP] leader Bunchu Rotchanasathian has voiced noteworthy criticism of the Foreign Ministry. He may submit a motion to question Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila in the upcoming parliamentary session.

The CAP leader has cited reasons for submitting a motion to question the foreign minister. He says the fighting in Ban Romklao—which resulted in loss of lives, property, and the country's reputation—occurred because the Foreign Ministry failed to create good relations between the two nations, compelling the military leaders to negotiate the issue by themselves.

It is a good sign that members of the House of Representatives are paying more attention to the government's foreign policy implementation because, in the past, the House of Representatives did not pay much attention to this matter, although it set up the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In the past, the House of Representatives was not very active in advising, commenting on, or controlling foreign policy implementation by the government. Permanent government officials and the foreign ministers, who invariably come from the ranks of government officials, have been allowed to implement policy alone because diplomacy is considered a complicated science that is difficult for outsiders.

Implementation of foreign policy by a particular party could result in mistakes and affect national interests. Although Laos—which once had a kindred relationship with Thailand from time immemorial—changed its administration 12 years ago, certain Thai governments, like that of Kriangsak, were able to achieve understanding and improve relations with Laos.

The belief that diplomacy is a complicated science and is difficult for outsiders is outdated because, right now, outsiders can get information and news just as the Foreign Ministry can. We support the House of Representatives' playing a greater role in advising, commenting on, and controlling the implementation of foreign policy by the government.

Official on SRV Boat People, Lauds U.S. Envoy
BK030115 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
3 Mar 88 p 3

[Text] National Security Council [NSC] secretary-general Suwit Suthanukun yesterday said Thailand is considering moving all Vietnamese boat people in the eastern provinces to a single island or the Site 2 holding centre in Ta Phraya District of Prachin Buri.

He said there are now nearly 1,500 Vietnamese boat people in Trat Province—127 in Laem Ngop District, 691 in Khlong Yai District and 691 others on various islands.

These Vietnamese, presumably having been smuggled in, may be centralised at Rang Island of Khlong Yai District in order to make it easier for officials to take care of them, he said.

Moreover, the NSC is considering moving them all to Site 2, Mr Suwit said.

The NSC chief said measures being taken by the Government to stop the smuggling of Vietnamese boat people have been effective. The only problem is that a large number of personnel are needed to enforce the crackdown.

"At least the news of Thailand taking tough measures against refugee smuggling have reached the Vietnamese who are poised to enter Thailand," Mr Suwit said.

So far 27 suspected refugee smugglers have been arrested, he said.

Mr Suwit said no changes have been made on an agreement between Thailand and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Under the agreement, Vietnamese illegal immigrants will not be regarded as refugees. Those having entered Thailand illegally will be sent to Site 2, meaning they will not be entitled to resettlement in a third country.

The NSC chief also said Thailand and the United States have arrived at a better understanding on the refugee issue.

He praised U.S. Ambassador William Brown for his understanding of the refugee situation in Thailand, as shown in the envoy's recent testimony before the U.S. Congress.

From Mr Brown's testimony, it is hoped the United States will help relieve Thailand of its refugee burden, Mr Suwit said.

"It is now necessary for the two countries to look for a more effective solution to the refugee problem," he said.

Meanwhile, Navy commander-in-Chief [title as published] Adm Praphat Kritsanachan said the Navy would turn over the duty of patrolling the eastern coast to the Interior Ministry.

Adm Praphat said local officials had been inefficient in the past, resulting in the influx of Vietnamese refugees.

Editorial Views Vietnamese Refugee Issue
BK040039 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
4 Mar 88 p 6

[POST Editorial: "A Problem That Begins in Hanoi"]

[Text] First report: Every night small groups of refugees, guided by professional smugglers, try to sneak undetected into a new country and a new life. The security forces search for them, capture them and send them back. Second report: Every night small groups of refugees, guided by professional smugglers, try to sneak undetected into a new country and a new life. The security forces search for them, capture them and send them back to sea.

The first report is about central Americans entering the United States. Sending them back is law enforcement. The second is Vietnamese entering Thailand. Sending them back, according to one US official last week, "can be perceived as licensing piracy". Fine distinctions—or double standards?

Understandably, memories of their involvement in Vietnam touch upon the nerves of Americans. But the memory fades and the heart-rending traumas depicted in *The Deer Hunter* give way to the fictional escapism of *Rambo*.

Thailand's push-back policy toward illegal Vietnamese immigrants has forced a new awareness that, despite celluloid heroes, the real human tragedy lives on. It is an unwelcome reminder prompting suggestions that Thailand is being inhumane, a suggestion rightly denied by many in testimony before the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee of the U.S. Congress. It is an accusation that is impossible to sustain.

With the flow of refugees again increasing, Thailand has an Indochinese refugee population as large as the total number the U.S. has resettled in ten years. And now, not only has the rate of resettlement fallen to a quarter of its 1980 level, Thailand is also faced with the prospect of indefinitely having to provide for hundreds of thousands of refugees. There is no lack of compassion on Thailand's part but there is a scarcity of resources to allow us to carry an increasing burden while others cut back on theirs.

Anaesthetised by time and *Rambo* from the responsibilities of the Vietnam war, the U.S. is planning to reduce still further the number of Indochinese refugees it resettles. Firstly, this is reportedly to save money, a move that will have the effect of shifting the financial burden on to Thailand. Secondly, the change in policy is to make room for more Soviet Jewish and Armenian refugees without increasing the total U.S. intake of refugees.

Thai compassion spreads to refugees from oppression anywhere, but sympathy cannot be extended to the abuse of that compassion in order to facilitate politically-expedient choices of the day by the U.S. Administration.

And it is not only the U.S. that has reduced the level of resettlement. For most of the world, the Vietnam war is a thing of the past and has been overtaken by other claims on the (evidently finite) humanitarian resources of developed countries. But the refugee problem still exists and will not go away simply by placing an open-ended burden on this country.

Nor can it be solved, as suggested by one U.S. official, by quiet diplomacy to smooth Thailand's "ruffled feathers". Instead of another patching up of a leaky resettlement plan, real diplomacy is needed to solve the problem once and for all. The underlying problem is to be found not in Thailand, but in Vietnam.

For Vietnam the war still goes on. Indeed the country regards itself as having been at war since the thirties—against the French, the Japanese, the French a second time round, followed by the U.S. and its allies, including Thailand. Subsequently Vietnam has used military and political means to try to gain total hegemony over Kampuchea and Laos.

Vietnam's people continue to live in disastrous poverty in order to support that country's vast war machine. It is therefore not surprising that Vietnamese citizens need little encouragement to seek a better life elsewhere. That they have received that encouragement from official Vietnamese quarters reveals the cynical lack of concern Vietnam's communist regime maintains for its own people.

In the sixties and seventies Thailand and the U.S. shared, with other countries such as Australia, the burden of holding back Vietnamese expansionism. To Americans, 1975 television pictures of helicopters taking off from their embassy in Saigon may seem distant. For Thailand, through its occupation of Kampuchea, Vietnam is closer than it was 13 years ago.

A solution to the refugee problem is to be found not in blaming Thailand for saying enough is enough, but for the international community to prevail upon Vietnam to withdraw from Kampuchea, dismantle its oversized war-machine and put its economy in order so that its citizens prefer to stay at home.

UN Officer on New Force To Guard Refugee Camps
BK040114 Bangkok THE NATION in English
4 Mar 88 p 6

[By Sinfa Tansarawut]

[Text] The Supreme Command will create a new paramilitary force specifically trained for guarding eight encampments housing 290,000 displaced persons along the Thai-Kampuchean border and another Khmer refugee camp, a top United Nations official said.

The force, called Displaced Persons Protection Units (DPPU), will replace the rangers, who are volunteers trained by the army for front-line combat.

UN officials hope the force can be put in effect within the next few months. The officials also welcomed three other measures approved by the Thai government to improve the lives of Khmers in the border encampments.

Prospects are good that donor countries will offer financial support to create the new units to improve the security for border Khmers, said S.A.M.S. Kibria, special representative of the UN secretary general for coordination of the Kampuchean humanitarian assistance programmes.

Kibria said in an interview with THE NATION Tuesday that he has not yet received the Supreme Command's plan for the new recruitment.

But a Supreme Command official said DPPU members will be recruited from civilians who are army reservists or retired military officers. They are required to have at least graduated high school.

DPPU members will be trained for one and a half months to meet the requirements of guarding the eight border encampments and Khao I-Dang, a camp of 20,000 Khmer refugees in Prachin Buri Province, said the official, who requested anonymity.

"Emphasis will be on quality," he said.

Rangers, most of whom have finished only primary school, have been accused of lacking discipline in handling security in the camps.

The eight border encampments are Site 2 and Site 8 in Prachin Buri Province, Site B in Surin Province, Huai Chan and Na Trao in Sisaket Province, and Bo Rai, Ban Ta Luan, and Sok San in Trat Province.

Due to a Thai government plan to develop villages around Na Trao, Khmer Rouge civilians in the encampment are being relocated to O Trao, a new camp five kilometres away, said an official of the UN Border Relief Operation (UNBRO). About 9,500 people were moved last year while another 6,900 still live in Na Trao.

Kibria said he expects that DPPU members will improve protection for Kampuchean, a major concern raised by donor countries of the Kampuchean humanitarian assistance programmes during a meeting Kibria chaired on Tuesday.

Kibria reported the Thai government's agreement to create the DPPU at the meeting. The matter is expected to be raised again when Kibria chairs another meeting of donor countries in New York City on March 16.

UNBRO, which assists Khmers in the eight encampments, hopes that the plan will materialize before the start of the rainy season in May, according to a UNBRO report presented at Tuesday's meeting.

The DPPU build-up is one of several changes the Thai government granted to UNBRO after long negotiations to improve assistance to the Khmers.

THE NATION obtained a copy of the UNBRO report which highlighted the points Kibria spoke of during the meeting.

—UNBRO is extending the 5.4-square-kilometre Site 2 by another 1.5 square kilometres to alleviate overcrowding of 160,000 dwellers in the encampment, said Kibria.

UNBRO first proposed splitting the Site 2 population and moving part of it to nearby Site 3, which has been prepared as an open field. But the Supreme Command argued that Site 3, located about 10 kilometres from the border, is too deep inside Thailand. Site 2 is two kilometres inside Thailand.

Overcrowding has long been a problem for Site 2, which is the largest of the eight encampments. UNBRO made the last census of people in the camp on Jan 24, 1987, when the population was 151,395. It estimated the population on Monday as 160,218, an increase of 8,823 or 5.8 per cent.

"Overcrowding has caused fighting and quarrels among the Khmers," Kibria said.

—To reduce illegal trade in the encampment, he said, Site 2's first legal market is being arranged.

The market is along the road separating Site 2 North and Site 2 South, which are rampant with black marketing. The Supreme Command is to set up a check point in front of the market to regulate Thai merchants who will trade with the Khmers.

The market was originally due to open Tuesday, but delays in building a fence put off the opening to next week, UNBRO officials said.

—UNBRO has begun a new two-year education programme to increase teacher trainers and teachers for Khmer children in the border encampments.

It is expected that the 1988-89 programme, launched in January by a workshop in Aranyaprathet, will produce 100 teacher trainers and 1,500 teachers for primary education, according to the UNBRO report.

UNBRO has asked to start secondary schooling and vocational training for older Khmers. But the Thai government has so far allowed only primary education (grades 1 to 6) to about 65,000 children who are eligible for it.

The two-year programme involves curriculum development, printing of educational materials, training, provision of school supplies, and construction and equipping of classrooms.

—Kibria said UNBRO still cannot fully monitor its food distribution in the four camps of Khmer Rouge civilians, Huai Chan, Na Trao, Bo Rai, and Ban Ta Luan.

He said UNBRO does not get free access to Huai Chan, which is a requirement for UN humanitarian assistance.

UNBRO in late 1986 threatened to cut food supplies to the four camps because UNBRO officials were denied access to the camps. Negotiations have led to compromise by Khmer Rouge leaders.

There are concerns that food supplies might be diverted to Khmer Rouge fighters living nearby the civilian camps.

The eight encampments and Khao I-Dang are under the control of the Supreme Command's Joint Operations Centre.

Hmong Encroachers To Be Relocated

*BK040105 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
4 Mar 88 p 4*

[Text] Umphang, Tak—The Third Army will adopt harsh measures to force more than 3,000 Hmong encroachers to move out of Thung Yai Naresuan wildlife sanctuary to an official resettlement area prepared for them.

Col Chalo Thongsala, deputy director of the Special Area Development Project in Phop Phra District, said yesterday that only 43 Hmong families out of 674 have so far voluntarily moved to the 102,650-rai resettlement area arranged for them along the Mae Sot-Umphang Highway.

From the beginning of October until the end of last month, the Army was supposed to relocate 306 families from the area, but only 43 families have willingly shifted to the new site so far.

He said that from now on the Army will strictly enforce a law banning merchants from entering the wildlife reserve to trade with the illegal settlers.

He said officials are determined to relocate all of these Hmong refugees.

According to the Forestry Department, the Hmong are reluctant to resettle in Phop Phra because they claim land around the new site is infertile and plots reserved for each family are too small to cultivate for a living.

Polish Foreign Minister Calls on Prem

*BK041025 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai
1300 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] At 1100 today, Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila accompanied Polish Foreign Minister Professor Marian Orzechowski, who is visiting Thailand from 29 February to 4 March, to pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon at Government House. The Polish foreign minister said that his visit to Thailand is aimed at exchanging views on international economic and political issues and exploring ways to expand economic, trade, scientific, technological, and cultural cooperation with Thailand. He is also interested in the economic progress of Thailand. In addition, the Polish foreign minister reiterated the Polish Government's intention to invite the Thai prime minister to visit Poland officially.

Prime Minister Prem agreed with the Polish foreign minister on further developing bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially in trade and the economy. He also praised Poland for its beauty and great cultural heritage. He thanked the Polish Government for inviting the Thai leaders to make official visits to Poland. The Polish foreign minister is also scheduled to visit industries and agro-industries in Thailand during his visit.

Vietnam

Spokesman Holds News Briefing on Truong Sa

*BK031612 Hanoi VNA in English 1500 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—Trinh Xuan Lang, a spokesman for the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry and head of its Press and Information Department, held a press conference here this afternoon.

Asked about the situation around the Truong Sa [Spratly] Archipelago, Trinh Xuan Lang said:

Since mid-1987, the Chinese side has conducted many activities in violation of Vietnam's sovereignty over the Truong Sa Archipelago such as reconnaissance, surveys, military exercises, erecting of stone markers, etc.

On January 31, 1980, warships of the Chinese Navy arrived in this area and landed their troops on the Chu Thap coral reef. Chinese warships have impeded normal sailing of Vietnamese freighters in the waters of Vietnam. Till now, Chinese warships and troops still remain in the Truong Sa area.

It is completely not by chance that before carrying out these activities, in July 1987 China declared Hainan its thirtieth province comprising the Truong Sa and Hoang Sa [Paracel] archipelagoes of Vietnam.

The Chinese authorities' violations are premeditated acts which lie in their long-term scheme of creating a position in the Truong Sa Archipelago where China was not present before, so that from these places they could step by step control the Eastern Sea and make it a lake of China, threaten and dominate the whole of Southeast Asia. This attempt is shown in their new strategic viewpoint which they publicized in April, 1987 concerning the so-called "geographic border line" and "three-side strategic border line" (on land, on sea and in the air). According to this viewpoint, the "geographic border line" is a relatively stable border line recognised by juridical documents while the strategic border line represents the overall strength of a nation serving its survival, economic, security and scientific interests. So, if a small country does not have enough strength to defend its "geographic border line" then the strategic border line will be pushed back behind the geographic border line and gradually the country will lose all its territory. On the contrary, a big and strong country which has the strength to push its strategic border line far from the

geographic border line can, over the years, broaden its territory. Therefore, according to the same logic, China has to bring its national gate to vast sea areas to defend its national interests.

Neither is it by chance that these acts of causing tension and danger take place at a time when the trend toward dialogue is strongly developing among the Kampuchean parties and concerned countries in Southeast Asia aimed at solving the Kampuchea issue and the question of peace and stability in the region.

This situation reminds people of the recent border conflict between Thailand and Laos, during which time Chinese delegations headed by Vice Premier Wan Li, Deputy Chief-of-General Staff Xu Xin and Deputy Public Security Minister Hu Zhiguang were sent one after another to Bangkok. During these visits China openly took side with Thailand. Also during that time China spread the calumny that Vietnam created tension along the common border where the situation was in fact calm. Once again, we reaffirm our sovereignty over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagoes, and firmly demand that China immediately withdraw its military forces from the Truong Sa area and put an end to violations in all forms of Vietnam's territorial sovereignty. The Vietnamese people will always observe self-restraint but are at the same time determined to defend their territorial sovereignty. China has created tension in the region which can lead to a more complicated situation if it is not settled soon and for which China must bear full responsibility. A number of other countries also claim their sovereignty over the Truong Sa Archipelago. Regarding this issue, former Prime Minister Pham Van Dong during his trips to the Philippines in Sept. 1978 and Malaysia in Oct. 1978 had told the leaders of these two countries that the Truong Sa Archipelago comes under Vietnam's jurisdiction and that all disputes relating to the issue would be settled through negotiations in the spirit of conciliation and friendship." [final quotation marks as received]

Pham Hung Receives Albanian Delegation

*BK031619 Hanoi VNA in English 1528 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 3—Pham Hung, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received here this afternoon the visiting delegation of the Public Health Ministry of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania led by Minister Ahmet Kamberi.

The Vietnamese premier welcomed the working visit of the Albanian minister and his party and highly valued the agreement and protocol on health cooperation between the two countries for the 1988-90 period, describing them as vivid manifestations of the friendship and many-sided cooperation between the two countries.

Chairman Pham Hung expressed profound gratitude to the party Central Committee, the government, and fraternal people of Albania for their valuable support and assistance to the Vietnamese people's revolutionary cause in the past as well as at present.

For his part, Minister Ahmet Kamberi expressed his hope for further development of the cooperative relations in the interests of the two peoples.

Canonization of 117 Catholics Criticized

*BK040807 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT
4 Mar 88*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 4—The Vietnam Episcopal Council opened its extraordinary meeting here on Wednesday.

Addressing the meeting, Nguyen Quang Huy, head of the State Commission for Religious Affairs, spoke about a subtle and complicated issue which Vietnamese Catholics are facing. That is the Vatican decision to canonize 117 faithfuls in Vietnam and to organize the canonisation in Rome next June 19.

He said :

"This is not merely an internal affair of the Catholic Church but will have profound repercussions on the relations between religion and secular life, between one religion and another, between Catholics and non-catholics in Vietnam. It is not a pure religious rite but it touches upon historic issues of our nation, national sovereignty and national prestige in international relations of the state".

He continued :

"Yet, the Vietnam Catholic Church, from the Episcopal Council to the Catholic clergy and laity, have not been consulted about such an important issue. Neither has the government been asked to give its opinion.

"The worshipping of saints is a normal thing, the canonisation in one country or another is also normal. But the canonisation this time by the Vatican is abnormal. Because of the content and form of its conduct as well as of its predictable consequences, this decision has caused a serious situation which is not beneficial to religion instead is causing embarrassment to the Catholic clergy and laity, distorting the nation's history, hurting the feelings of non-catholics, adversely affecting the people's unity bloc, harming the ever better relation between the state and the church, and causing obstacle to the realisation of the desire for goodwill and friendly relations between Vietnam and the Vatican.

"The party, state and people of Vietnam have, in the interest of the stronger unity bloc of the entire people, persistently implemented the policy on freedom of belief". "Does the Vatican want to reopen an old page of

history, revive the period when missionaries came to Vietnam alongside Western colonialism which would revive the memories of a period when our people lost the country to foreign aggressors?" Nguyen Quang Huy queried.

He went on :

"The Vietnamese Government will do its utmost together with the Vietnam Episcopal Council to solve the issue in the best way to bring about a fair and reasonable solution that would meet the aspiration of Catholic believers and serve the interests of the great unity bloc of the entire people, of national sovereignty and of the relations between the state and the church, thus creating conditions for improving the relations between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Vatican."

Economic Cadres Hear Producers' Suggestions

*BK040518 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] Recently, Comrade Vo Tran Chi, party Central Committee member and municipal party committee secretary, and many cadres in charge of the various economic sections and branches in Ho Chi Minh City heard the views of producers, units, joint enterprises, cooperatives, and production cells, and private individuals engaged in artisan and handicrafts production. The views expressed by representatives of nearly 300 production establishments pointed out the difficulties now hampering the artisan and handicrafts sector, with cash being the most crucial issue. At present, the bank still owes the various artisan and handicrafts production establishments more than 3 billion dong. The permitted withdrawal of 5-7 percent of the bank account balance has caused difficulties for the development of production; and the current prices do not allow grass-roots units to charge actual expenses fully to production costs, especially with regard to goods produced under labor contracts for export.

The control placed on the quantity of goods does not really encourage the production of consumer goods needed for consumption and export. A product that has to go through many work processes at different production establishments—bicycles, for example—is subjected to commodity taxes many times, thus increasing production costs. On the other hand, high export-import duty tariffs have rendered it impossible for products made from imported raw materials to compete with foreign goods.

Many representatives pointed out the need to transform the union of cooperatives into a production and business unit so as to create favorable conditions for directing and assisting production establishments in the implementation of plan norms. The unequal treatment accorded by

the various sections and branches to artisan and handicrafts production establishments in their production, business, and social activities has also affected the sector's development.

The representatives also suggested to the state that the city should study a policy aimed at commercializing supplies and raw materials to replace the current supply system, allow establishments producing goods for export to use part of the foreign currency they earn for importing equipment and machinery for modernization purposes, and create favorable conditions for producers to study both the domestic and foreign markets and transfer foreign currency to relatives abroad who have invested their capital in domestic production.

After hearing the representatives' suggestions, the comrades in charge of the various economic sections and branches gave their answers on relevant issues and put forward some positive measures to be jointly carried out to remove difficulties and stabilize production.

Comrade Vo Tran Chi instructed the various branches, unions of artisan and handicrafts cooperatives, and the city's Tax Office, Price Commission, and Commercial Bank to concentrate efforts on immediately dealing with the primary difficulties. The artisan and handicrafts sector, he said, must improve management and business operations and at the same time, conduct a study to propose suitable revision of the various policies to the central government so as to stimulate production.

State Bank To Issue New Bank Notes 4 March

*BK040334 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
2300 GMT 3 Mar 88*

[Text] To ensure that the monetary structure in circulation is in line with the current requirements of production and goods circulation, implementing Decision No. 47-HDBT dated 24 February 1988 of the Council of Ministers chairman, the State Bank will issue and circulate the 1,000-dong, 2,000-dong, and 5,000-dong bank notes, effective 4 March 1988.

The new bank notes bear the following characteristics:

a) the 1,000-dong note is in white paper with dark violet background, watermarked with [late] President Ho Chi Minh's portrait, 134-mm long, and 65-mm wide. The obverse shows President Ho Chi Minh's portrait on the right side and the national emblem on the left side. The reverse shows a coal mining landscape.

b) the 2,000-dong note is in white paper with violet background, watermarked with President Ho Chi Minh's portrait, 134-mm long, and 65-mm wide. The obverse shows President Ho Chi Minh's portrait on the right side and the national emblem on the left side. The reverse shows the Pha Lai electric power plant scenery.

c) the 5,000-dong note is in white paper with dark blue background, watermarked with President Ho Chi Minh's portrait, 134-mm long, and 64-mm wide. The obverse shows President Ho Chi Minh's portrait on the right side and the national emblem on the left side. The reverse shows oil rig scenery.

The Ministry of Information and the Vietnam State Bank held a press conference yesterday afternoon on the issuance and circulation of 1,000-dong, 2,000-dong, and 5,000-dong bank notes.

Pest Infestation of Rice Reported Nationwide
BK030853 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Summary] In recent days, as a result of protracted bad weather and sporadic severe cold spells, crops have grown slowly in the northern provinces.

According to a communique of the Vegetation Protection Department, "rice blast is likely to develop on a large scale and affect almost all vulnerable rice strains." So far, in almost all provinces, the average rate of increase of rice blast has stood at 1-5 percent, and at times, 15 percent in some localities.

"In Nghe Tinh and Binh Tri Thien, rice blast is seriously affecting 50-70 percent of ricefields of water and the NV-1 rice varieties. Young stem-borers have also damaged some ricefields in Hanoi and Haiphong. Small leaf-rollers destroyed more than 300 hectares of early rice in Binh Tri Thien. In some areas, the density of small leaf-rollers stood at as many as 15-17 per square meter. Long-bodied ground beetles are spreading in many villages and on the edges of forests and sometimes have reached a density of several thousand per square meter. During the last cold spell, as many as two metric tons of ground beetles were netted at Yen Thanh, Do Luong, Nam Dan, and Diem Chau Districts of Nghe Tinh Province."

"The winter-spring rice transplanting has been completed in the southern provinces. Rice has been growing well but rice blast is affecting ricefields of the CN-2, MPL, Nong Nghiep 6A, and CU-89 rice varieties. Thousands of square meters of ricefields in Nghia Binh and Quang Nam-Danang have been affected by blight."

"Rice blast is also affecting many ricefields in the Mekong River Delta. In Dong Thap alone, as many as 1,017 hectares of ricefields have been affected. Chlorosis has damaged 12,000 hectares of winter-spring ricefields in the Mekong River Delta. Long-bodied ground beetles are ravaging many ricefields in Tien Giang Province. Star-shaped worms, leaf rollers, stem borers, and rats are spreading and ravaging many ricefields. Many winter-spring ricefields in the Trung Bo provinces and a number of provinces in the Mekong River Delta have been seriously damaged by rats."

Rice blast will continue to seriously affect early rice and main spring rice in the northern provinces. The southern provinces will be facing the same problem. Therefore, "it is necessary for the northern provinces to accelerate efforts to prevent the spread of ground beetles and to keep an eye on the development of stem borers, brown bugs, and leaf rollers. It is important for the southern provinces to step up the fight against rice blast, ground beetles, rats, leaf rollers, and stem borers."

Briefs

Gas-Oil Exploration Expanded

The Vietnamese-Soviet Oil and Gas Union recently held a conference to discuss measures to develop oil and gas exploration and extraction for 1988. This year, the work load designed for the Soviet Union is twice that of 1987. The exploration for oil and gas at the southern continental shelf will be expanded extensively. According to set plans, the Soviet Union will drill 19 exploratory wells in 1988 and complete the construction of 4 permanent oil rigs by 1990. In 1988, the Soviet Union will extract 670,000 tonnes of crude oil, build a general operation base, and commission 10 industrial projects. [Summary] *[Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 4 Mar 88 BK]*

Australia

Two More Indonesian Fishing Boats Seized
*BK030148 Hong Kong AFP in English 0112 GMT
3 Mar 88*

[Text] Perth, Australia, March 2 (AFP)—Two more Indonesian fishing boats apprehended off western Australia's northwestern [coast] on Wednesday are now on their way to the port of Broome.

The boats, with a total of 35 crew on board, are being towed by an Australian Navy patrol boat, and are expected to arrive in the port of Broome on Thursday morning.

A total of eight Indonesian fishing craft has now been intercepted in and around the King Sound region of western Australia this year.

Australian Customs Department official Phil Watt said a navy vessel spotted the first of the latest two craft east of Cape Leveque early Wednesday.

He said that officers found on board about a tonne of rare trochus shells, which fetch a high price in South-East Asia, where they are used in the production of jewellery.

The second boat was sighted by a Coastwatch aircraft near Bedford Island, north of Broome, later in the day.

Mr. Watt said that though no trochus shells were found on this vessel, crew were in possession of equipment used for collecting them.

Broome Magistrate's Court two weeks ago ordered the confiscation of six Indonesian vessels estimated to be worth 30,000 Australian dollars (22,000 U.S.).

Hawke Objects to Polish Consulate Bans
*BK040921 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0510 GMT 4 Mar 88*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Hawke, says trade union action against the Polish Consulate in Sydney conflicts with Australia's obligation as a host country. Mr Hawke has intervened in an attempt to have unions lift a range of bans which affect the delivery of mail, maintenance work, and the collection of garbage.

The bans were imposed in protest after the reported decision by Polish authorities to prevent the Solidarity leader, Mr Lech Walesa, from attending a trade union conference in Melbourne.

Fiji

Cooperation With Australia Against Drugs
*BK040905 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0510 GMT 4 Mar 88*

[Text] Australia and Fiji have agreed to cooperate in a campaign against drug trafficking and the laundering of criminal money which they recognize as a growing regional problem.

Australia's justice minister, Senator Michael Tate, held a news conference in Suva after 2 days of talks and said that Fiji was very keen to help in the fight against drugs and white collar crime.

Senator Tate is making a first Australian ministerial visit in the 5-month old Fiji Republic. He said he believed Australia was now a major target of international cocaine cartels.

Papua New Guinea

Soviets Ask Permission To Open Embassy
*BK040909 Melbourne Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 4 Mar 88*

[Text] The Papua New Guinea Government has received a formal request from the Soviet Union to establish a diplomatic mission in Port Moresby. The request was made by the Soviet ambassador to Australia, Dr Yevgeniy Samoteykin, who is also accredited as ambassador to Papua New Guinea.

Dr Samoteykin is currently visiting Port Moresby for talks with the government. Papua New Guinea's foreign minister, Mr Doi, says that although diplomatic relations between Port Moresby and Moscow were established in 1976 they have developed slowly.

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